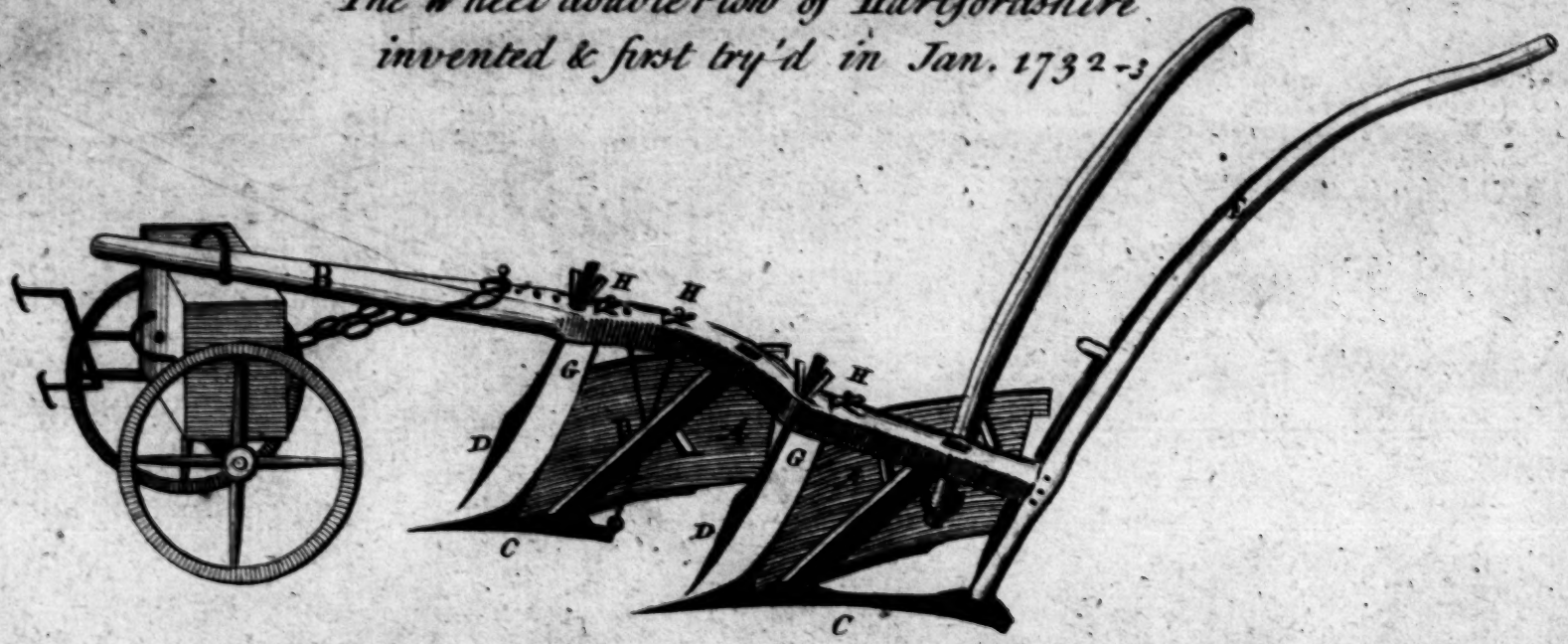
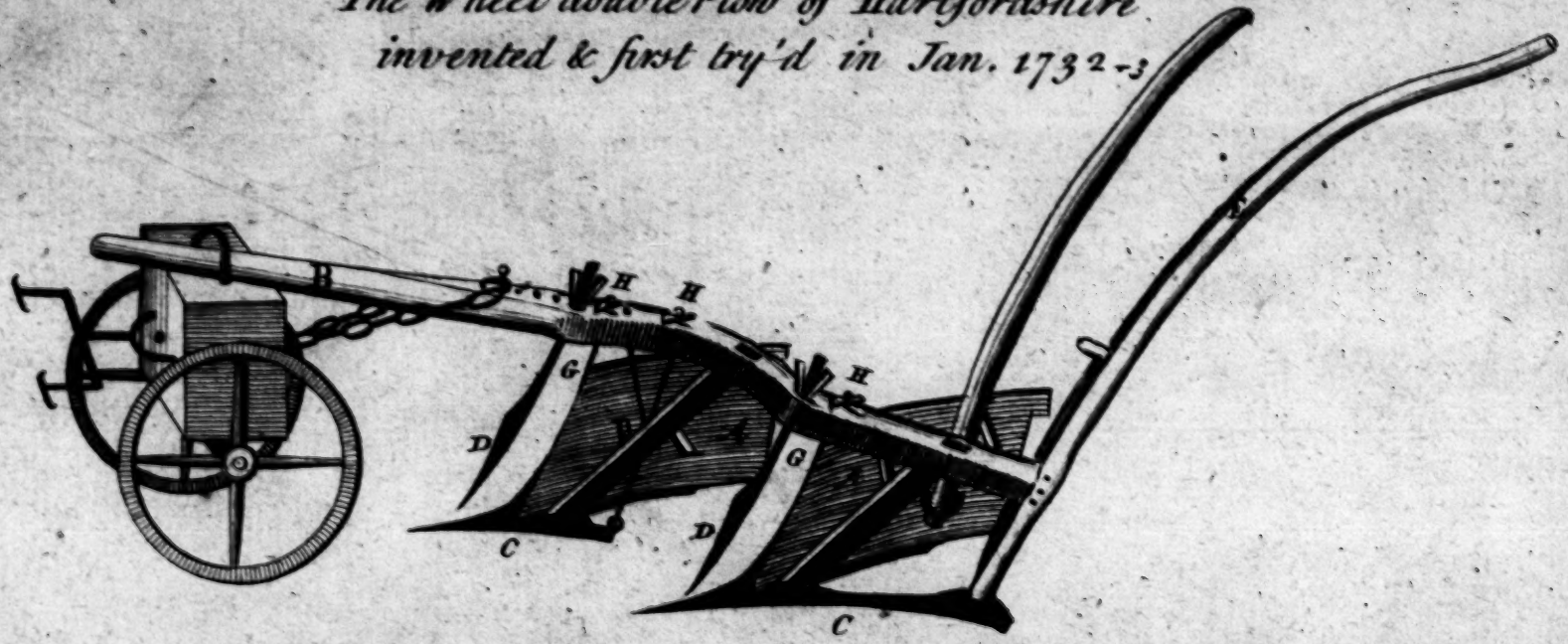
The Wheel double Plow of Hartfordshire invented & first try'd in Jan. 1732-3



Scale of 3 Feet.

A Broad Board,
B Beam,
C 2 Iron Shears.
D 2 Coulters,
E Staple,
F Sheafs.
G Hooks,
H Keys that locks the Hooks wch fastens ye Shars.

The Wheel double Plow of Hartfordshire invented & first try'd in Jan. 1732-3



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New Experiments IN HUSBANDRY,

For the Month of *April*.

CONTAINING

Several Processes of Plowing various Lands.
The Transcendent Uses of the late invented HERTFORDSHIRE-DOUBLE-PLOUGH.
The Improvements of GRAIN, GRASSES, MANURES, and TREES.
The Prevention and Cure of ROTTEN-SHEEP; also of the RED-WATER FOOT-ROT, *&c.*
Keeping of HOGS, COWS, and HORSES, from Diseases.
The BITES of JOCKEYS, exposed.
Of Pickling PORK, and the proper Vessels to keep it in.
The Breeding of FOWLS.
A New invented ROWL.
Several Letters concerning HUSBANDRY, and the AUTHOR's ANSWERS.
With other Beneficial Matters tending to the Improvement of this most Useful SCIENCE.

By WILLIAM ELLIS, of *Little-Gaddesden*, near *Hempstead*, in *Hertfordshire*

LONDON:
Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by Mess. Fox, in *Westminster-Hall*; W. MEADOWS, at the *Angel*, in *Cornhill*; T. ASTLEY, at the *Rose* in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*; and W. BICKERTON, at *Lord Bacon's Head*, without *Temple-Bar*. Price Two Shillings.

M.DCC.XXXVI.

THE PREFACE

MANY *are the Authors who have wrote on Agriculture, but I don't know one, who has publiſhed the Operations of the* Wheat-Fallow-Plough, Wheat Seed, Bobtail, Lent-Seed, Double, One Wheel, Turn-riſe, Foot, Double Broad-Board, *and* Banking Ploughs, *&c. now in Uſe, tho' on them depend the firſt and numerous Improvements of the Field; and therefore, as the making known the ſeveral Proceſſes of Plowing and Sowing Land (however hitherto neglected) are ſome of the moſt excellent* Articles *in* Writing *a* Book *of* Husbandry, *I intend to enlarge on the Explanation of their intricate* Services

throughout theſe WORKS, *being a* SCIENCE *more than ordinary wanted in its Diſcovery, and that in ſome of the* Southern, *as well as other Parts of* Great-Britain, Ireland, *and the Plantations Abroad: For notwithſtanding many undertake the Management of the Plough, yet is it apparent, that hardly one in ten is Maſter of this difficult Profeſſion, even in our Chiltern Country, which is reputed to be the beſt Nurſery for them in* England; *and if any Gentlemen or others think fit, they may ſee my Son (whom I have brought up from his Infancy to Farming, and is now Twenty-one Years of Age,) hold ſeveral of the before-mentioned Ploughs. As therefore I am the firſt who writes the Proceſſes of theſe Inſtruments, in their proper Seaſons in Arable Lands, I ſhall alſo treat particularly hereafter, as to the Improvements of Meadow, and many other uſeful Matters not convenient here to hint of.*

The Ample Account I have here made known, of preventing, and (if not too far gone) of curing Rotten-Sheep, *is what can't be credited by many, tho' the beſt way to prove a Thing feaſible, is to try it; as did the worthy and induſtrious* Thomas Palmer, *Eſq; Member of Parliament for* Bridgewater, *who declared to me, he believed my Receipt ſaved his whole Flock; and about* December *laſt Mr.* Richard Sale, *of* Nettleden *in* Bucks, *ſingled out the worſt Sheep in his Flock, which, tho' waſted in his Fleſh, was reſtored by four Doſes of my* Regulus of Antimony: *Nor can the Meaſles or Garget breed in a Hog, nor the Yellows, and ſeveral other Diſtempers in a Horſe, if my other two Preparations of* Antimony *are applied in time by way of Prevention; and as each Doſe for a Sheep will coſt but about Three-farthings, who would (as the Proverb ſays,)* Loſe a Sheep, for a Half-penny worth of Tar.

The PREFACE.

The Improvement of Grain, Graſſes, Trees, Manures, Beaſts, Fowls, and the Deſtruction of Vermin, an Inſects, &c. that I have experienced, made my Obſervations of, and received from good Hands, and which hereafter may acrue to my Knowledge, I have here, and intend to exemplify it in ſuch a Manner, that their great Utility and Profit may be publickly known: And as I have lately receiv'd a Letter frank'd from an unknown Gentleman, I ſhall here inſert a Copy of it as follows, viz.

Broughton near Banbury, Feb. 15. 1735-6.

SIR,

YOUR Promiſe to furniſh Gentlemen with Setts of *White-Elder*, and *White-Wood*, makes me take the Liberty to ſend to you, for a few of both, which if you'll pleaſe to direct for ——— at *Broughton*, near *Banbury*, *Oxon*, to be left to the Care of *Eagle* the *Croppordy* Carrier, at the *George* on *Snow-Hill*, who ſets out on *Thurſday* Morning; as ſoon as you let me know what they come to, the ſaid Carrier ſhall pay it to any Perſon in *London* you ſhall appoint. I don't know of any readier Conveyance, than ſending them to *London*, our Carriers going the *Oxford* Road, which, I ſuppoſe, is out of your Reach, unleſs by a great Chance, you ſhould have an Opportunity to ſend to *High-Wickham*, or any other Town on that Road, near you, through which the Waggon paſſes downwards on *Fridays*; if not, you'll pleaſe to ſend as before adviſed. I ſhould be glad to hear you had received full Satisfaction in the Reception and Sale of thoſe ſeveral uſeful Treatiſes with which you have obliged the Publick; and if they have not anſwered your Expectation, it muſt be becauſe their real Value

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is not known: The World has been so pester'd of late Years with Books upon these Subjects, which have proved no better than arrant Impositions, upon Perusal of Transcripts from old musty Authors, common beaten Tracts, or impracticable Schemes never reduced to Practice, by Speculation and unexperienced People, that it is no Wonder People now grow more wary in laying out their Money in Books of this Kind, and Notice of the Publication of such sorts of Books, I have observed to have as little Regard paid to it, even by the Curious, by Lovers of Improvements, and Virtuoso's (for the aforesaid Reason) as so many Quack Advertisements: You must not therefore be discouraged, if your Books do not make their Way immediately; there is so much false Coin passing in the World, that the Goodness and Truth of the Gold must be thoroughly examined, weigh'd and prov'd, before we receive it; but as I am writing to the Author of the Performance I am commending, I shall say no more in favour of it at present, but only of his Interest, which I shall be very ready to promote at any Time, as far as it is in the Power of his Well-wisher, and most Obedient Servant, *&c.*

From all which it appears, that a practical Author has but little Chance to meet with Encouragement from Advertisements, till his Works better declare him; and as this is a very tedious Way, the World consequently loses the great Benefit of being early acquainted with many valuable Secrets, as well as the Author his Profit, and Ability to publish his several elaborate Pages: For which Reason, if this Monthly Treatise is approved, he hopes some generous Persons will voluntarily assist him, with Subscriptions or other Ways, towards printing the Month of May, *(which is now ready) and the rest of his Books; and then they will not only be the Cause of the World's*

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enjoying the Knowledge of those many important Experiments the sooner, but enable the Author the better to discover more Improvements, that may be of great Service to the Publick: However, the Success of his Hopes, he thinks, depends only on those few, who have true Notions of these Benefits, which even many of the old Farmers are Enemies to, as they deviate from their ancient Practice; and therefore in their Estimation must be bad. Some Country Gentlemen also, who have only entertained their Fancies with superficial Tenets, call such Book-Learning an Amusement, or are so attached to their Neighbouring Farmers Skill, that they can hardly see any OEconomy in the Vegetable Kingdom, but through their Eyes, and consequently are ready to condemn new Improvements as a dangerous Project. I have been more than once attack'd by a Country Gentleman on Account of French Wheat, who would, by no Means, allow that Plowing of it into the Ground, when in full Bloom, could be a sufficient Dressing for another Crop of common Wheat; and this he the more insisted on, because the Farmers, of his Acquaintance, (who never saw any but me do it,) were against it, because (as he said) a Load of Wheat-Straw, that is, the common Product of an Acre of Land, would not make a Quarter Dung enough for that Purpose; and thus he retained his Opinion, till a more skilful Farmer convinced him it was the Sap of the Stalks that was the chief Substance or Kernel, and the Straw only the Shell. Another Sort are your meer Scholars, who, because Virgil does not mention it, by no Means will allow a Thing to be valuable, tho' there be a Thousand Improvements at this Day in Practice, that he never had the Knowledge of. Hence it is, that some, who have not a true Idea of a serviceable Process, Rule, or Direction, not only dislike it, but rail at its Insipidness, without suffering a Tryal to confute the Objection. In short, for want of a true Notion, these, and some other Sorts of

SCEP-

The PREFACE.

SCEPTICKS, *can never enjoy a true Taſte of the Pleaſure and Profit of Improvements, that to the more* SAGACIOUS *are Matter of the greateſt Moment and Delight.*

ERRATUM.

In the Advertiſement at the End of the Book concerning the *London* and *Country Brewer*, for Second and Third Part, read Second Part.

New

New EXPERIMENTS *in* HUSBANDRY, *&c.*
For the Month of April.

IN this Month the Fallowing or firſt plowing up of Land for Wheat, is performed in moſt Places, both in the Vales and hilly or chiltern Countries; and is ſo neceſſary to be done in *April*, that whoever neglects it, is juſtly accounted a ſloathful Farmer, and is certainly very much wanting to his own Intereſt, even to a Proverb.— Better an *April* Sop, than a *May* Clot,—becauſe in this Month the Ground is generally ſoppy wet, when *May* is ſo dry as to clot: But the exact Meaning is; that it is better to fallow in this Month than the next, by reaſon the Earth has a longer Time to be got into a true Tilth againſt the next Wheat Seaſon, than if it was later plowed. To begin then on Action I ſhall here lay down:

The Proceſs of Ploughing up a Pea Stubble for Wheat, as it was performed.

THE Ground was compoſed of about ſix Tenths Loam, three Tenths Chalk, and one Tenth Gravel, which juſtly deſerves to be called an excellent Soil, as being capable of producing moſt Sorts of Grain, Graſs, or Trees; and is ſooner reduced into a Tilth, than Clays or intire Loams. The ſhort, dry, chalky, gravelly Parts, contributing very much to the Plough's Operation in bringing it into an early Fineneſs, and Sweetneſs, and ſerve as Correctors to the loamy Part; and is indeed by Nature, what Art itſelf could only be wiſh'd to do in the Situation it lies; it being a Field of about three Acres between two Hills, that ſhoot down their Waters on its Surface, that are again as often abſorb'd, and no longer retained than as they ſerve to fertilize the Crop that lies on the ſame. It is alſo a moſt valuable Earth, on account of its

agreeing with all Sorts of Dung and Manure, from the Farm Yard to the *London* Chimney; will reſiſt Weeds more than Clay or Loams, and ſuffer the Plough to deſtroy them in a little Time. In ſhort, this compounded Earth being of a treble Nature, has its different Qualities: The Loam its more growing, the Chalk it's drying, ſhoaling, and ſweetning, the Gravel it's binding, drying, and ſhading, that ſo anſwer to each other, as to make it a right Soil, and particularly for Peas, that here will be preſerved and flouriſh, even in the cold wet Seaſons of *March*, *April*, and *May*, when thoſe in Clays and Loams have ſeemed red headed, died away, and never recovered. But here if the Severity of the Weather almoſt kills them, they often get the better of it, be it wet or dry. —The Peas had been ſown in Stiches, about eleven in Number, to the Breadth of two Poles, of the Horn grey Sort, which are of the hardieſt Nature of all others, and is a good bodied Pea, of great Service to feed and harden the Fleſh of Swine; and alſo for feeding of Horſes inſtead of Beans when they come off the Mow thorough dry; if they don't, they may be dry'd on the Malt Kiln and ſplit. Theſe Stiches in this Month were the firſt Time plowed into four thorough'd Stiches again with the narrow Wheel Stitch Plough, and in that Poſture it lay till *June*, when they were harrowed down long-ways. About a Week after which, it was plowed a ſecond Time into four thorough'd Stiches; ſo it lay till the latter End of *Auguſt* without any harrowing, becauſe it did not require it now; and then it was bouted off the four thorough'd Stitches, and ſo remained to the Beginning of *September*, when it was only thorough'd down, harrowed plain, and dung'd all over; which as ſoon as done, the Wheat was ſtrained and plowed into four thorough'd Stitches by the ſame Plough. Thus the Wheat grew in theſe Stitches, flouriſh'd and was a fine Crop at Harveſt. But I ſhall here remark on this

this Management, *viz.* — The first Plowing is called every where Fallowing; the next in some Places is called Try Fallowing, with us a Stirree: The third Plowing by some is called Try-Fallowing, with us a second Stirree; the others as before mentioned. But here I am to observe, that in renewing the same Operation by plowing the Stitches into Stitches again, the whole Surface of the Earth is almost moved from one Place to another; so that where the Ridge or Middle of the Stitch was before, there now is a Thorough; and where the Thorough was, there is a Ridge; which is all clean plowing, except half a Thorough in the Ridge Part, and is an excellent Way to sweeten stiff, clotty Soils, and make it truly fine; because it not only removes its former Situation, but lays it up again in a regular Stitch of about Inches over or wide, somewhat like the Back of a fat Hog; and being so raised above the common Surface, is better able to resist the Lodgment of Snows, Hails, and Wets, that mostly fall into the Thoroughs, or Furrows on each Side of its Semi-circle Shape: And thus the Sun, Air, and Frosts, have a Power to make a greater Penetration into the Earth's Body, than if it lay all flat.

Another *Way of preparing a Pea Stubble for Wheat in Broad-Lands.*

DRAW out your Thoroughs in this Month at nine Steps Distance, over-thwart the Pea Stitches, and plow them with the Wheel-fallow-Plough, and a strong Team into Broad-Lands, in *May*. Harrow and draw out your Thoroughs, at the same Distance cross the last Way, and accordingly plow it a cross into Broad-Lands again; then in *June* plow it into Broad-Lands the same Way it lay last without drawing out any new Thorough, for the old ones will be a sufficient Guide; and so let it remain till it is ready to plow and sow in Stitches. In all which Time the Fold (the best of Dressing) should be employed; for by this Po-

ſture of Broad-Land plowing three ſeveral Times, the Ground lies in ſuch a flat Order, as readily receives and holds the Sheeps Dung and Stale.

A Third Way of preparing a Pea-Stubble *for* Wheat.

I HERE ſuppoſe the Peas to have grown in Stitches, therefore in this Month fallow them a-croſs into four thorough'd Stitches again, and ſo let it lie till *June*; then plow it again into four thorough'd Stitches, and ſo let it remain till *Auguſt*, when they are to be bouted down, harrow'd plain and dung'd; after which plow and ſow your Wheat in Stiches, or Broad-Lands.

A Fourth Way of preparing a Pea or Oat Stubble for Wheat.

FALLOW it in Broad Lands in this Month. In *June* harrow it plain, and fill in your Thoroughs (ſome do, and ſome do not, but its the beſt way, becauſe it lays the Ground level) and hack it a-croſs. In *Auguſt*, if the Ground is very rough, harrow it plain, and hack directly croſs-ways again. Then in *September* dung, plow, and ſow in Stitches, or Broad-Lands as you think fit. — Theſe laſt Ways are performed by the ſingle Wheel-Fallow-Plough; but by an acute Workman may be alſo done with the Foot or Bobtail-Plough, and ſometimes by the Double-Plough newly invented in *Hertfordſhire*; which I intend to make known throughout theſe Works, for its profitable Uſes in the *Chiltern* Country renders it of very great Conſequence to all Farmers and Occupiers of Land.

To prepare a Loamy or Clay Ground for a Wheat Crop in Bouts.

IN this Month fallow in Broad-Lands. In *May* harrow it plain, and in a Week, two, or three after, fill in your Thoroughs, and bout it a-croſs. In *July* bout it again off the laſt Bouts, which removes all or moſt of the Ground, and may be called a clean plowing: Thus let it lie till after Harveſt, and in

Septem-

September, it may be back-bouted, and harrowed plain, then dung'd plow'd, and ſow'd. — When Ground is plowed after this Manner, it is often dreſs'd from the Stable. Or it may be done with Soot, Lime, Aſhes, *&c.* in the Spring Time; others (tho' not very uſual in this Caſe) will fold it all the Summer, but then a fold Courſe muſt be always harrowed, before it can be ſolded on; otherways the Sheeps Dung will fall into the deep Thoroughs, and ſo be buried and loſt. Theſe Operations are performed with the Wheel-Plough; or after the firſt plowing, it may be done with the Double-Plough for twice together, which makes a Stitch or Bout, at once drawing forwards and backwards; but when back-bouted, the Single-Fallow-Plough muſt be uſed.

To prepare a Bullimon Stubble that lay in Broad-Lands for a Wheat-Crop.

FALLOW in this Month into Broad-Lands, and let it lie till the latter end of *May*, then harrow it plain, and bout it a-acroſs the Broad-Lands. In *July* bout it off the Bouts, and ſo let it lie till after the Harveſt. The latter end of *Auguſt*, or beginning of *September* back-bout it, and in a Week or two after harrow it plain, and dung it all over. Then plow and ſow your Wheat in Stiches or Broad-Lands.

Remarks.

NOTWITHSTANDING theſe general Rules, there is room for juſt Exceptions, and that on account of different Soils; which tho' moſt are commonly plowed up in this Month, yet where there is a chalky, ſandy, or gravelly Earth, ſeveral ſagacious Farmers refuſe to plow it up in this Month, and ſtay till *May*, and even *June*, leaſt ſuch Ground becomes too fine, and breeds Poppies and other Weeds that may choak the Corn. About *Lechlade*, in *Glouceſterſhire*, and other Places, they give their looſe Gravels only one plowing, and harrow in their Grain; otherways they ſay their Ground will lie

lie ſo looſe and hollow, as to cauſe Wheat and ſome other Corn to fall, and be a poor Crop: To prevent which, they have ſometimes trod their Wheat and Barley Seed in with Horſes to faſten it, and it has anſwered extremely well. But this Management can never come up to the Sheepfold, which certainly is the propereſt Dreſſing of all others for ſuch Ground, and then they might plow it oftener, and yet have the Land in better Order for Corn, by the Tread, Dung, Stale, and Warmth of the Sheeps Bodies; however, as they don't here uſe the Fold, they loſe this great Benefit. Again, in caſe the Weather proves too wet in this Month, the Plough is better deferr'd till next; for by plowing any Ground in ſuch a wet Seaſon, it's very apt to breed the deſtructive Black-bennet, May-weed, and others. Near *Ivinghoe* in *Bucks*, in their hurlucky chalky Loams, by the help of the Fold and Cart Dung, they ſometimes obtain eight Loads, or forty Buſhels of Wheat on an Acre; that is, when they dreſs the ſame Ground with both in one Summer.

Barley.

THIS and laſt Month are the propereſt Seaſons for ſowing of Barley; but *May* is generally preferr'd, to give it the more time to gather and ſpread into many Stalks, and ſecure it againſt the Summer Droughts, which later Sowing in a great Meaſure impedes; by Reaſon the warm Showers and Sun's Heat force on its Growth, and ſo raiſe it up very faſt in this Month. But this Misfortune is much prevented, if you'll make uſe of my famous profitable Method of Steeping the Seed before ſowing in the Liquor according to my following Receipt, which was firſt publiſhed by me, and is the fineſt Secret that ever was made known of this Kind; cauſing the Barley to branch into thirty, forty, or more Stalks from one Kernel, and each of them furniſhed with about forty Grains, as it happened in my own Ground this laſt Harveſt, 1734, to the

the Admiration of the Beholder. Three Buſhels of Seed is the moſt we dare ſow on an Acre, if the Ground is in a fine Tilth and well dreſs'd, that there may be ſufficient room left between the Seeds for gathering of the Stalks; and then let the Summer come ever ſo dry, you'll find it out-does all that is ſown naked at the ſame time you ſow your's, tho' they ſow a Buſhel more of an Acre. — The common Sort of Barley that we ſow in *Hertfordſhire* (where I believe more grows than in any other County beſide) is the old *Engliſh* plump, ſhort, knotty Corn, ſown forward, that it may be ripe and fit to cut directly after our Wheat is reap'd, which happens convenient for the Farmer, as being the next Corn that imploys our Harveſt Hands, tho' we are ſometimes forced to ſow it later, as in this Month and *May*, firſt becauſe our Turnips can't conveniently be eaten off ſoon enough; or that rainy Weather may continue and hinder. But the laſt Winter being a very mild one, and this Month for the moſt part rainy, and cold, the Slugs devoured many Fields of the Hog-Peas that were ſowed forward, inſomuch that the Farmer was forced to plow up and ſow Barley, White Oats, Blew Peaſe, or Thetches, in their room, about the end of *April*, and beginning of *May*; that ſuccceded very well.

Rathripe, *or* Fulham *Barley.*

COMES off a ſort of Sandy Ground there, and tho' ſomewhat thinner bodied than our common Sort, yet is it much improved by the very firſt Crop, and ſomewhat in the ſecond in our Loams and other Soils, which tempts ſome of our ſtrong team'd induſtrious Farmers to go once a Year to fetch it from thence, and then they commonly get three Shilling a Quarter more for that than our's. Of this Sort, I have had great Praiſe from the Maltſter, for ſprouting or coming well, and making excellent Malt; and is the propereſt Sort to ſow late as in this Month, in Conſideration of its being ſoon ripe. In a gravelly Soil

near

near me it was ſowed, and in the Barn in eleven Weeks time! And on this Account the Northern Farmers are juſtly under Reproach in my Opinion, for not propagating this convenient Grain, that they may get it out of their Fields before the long Nights are too far advanced; becauſe the earlier they houſe it, the better it is, as being more out of Danger of the Froſts and Wet, that are Enemies to this Sort of Corn in particular. But inſtead of this great Improvement, in *Lancaſhire*, *Yorkſhire*, and ſeveral other more Northern Counties, as well as in *Scotland*, they content themſelves with ſowing their Barley, called

BIGG,

By giving their Ground only one plowing in *May*, and harrowing it in on a Plough-Tilth, which ſeldom returns them above half the Quantity of one of our Crops, and that of a Grain leaner and coarſer than our common *Engliſh* Sorts. If we were no better Husbands here, it would be impoſſible to pay our Rents, and why they ſhould not be better, I know not; for undoubtedly they have the Conveniency of Dreſſings and Manures, where they have Sheep, Dung, Soil, Marl, Sea-ſand, Oar-weed, Lime-hoofs, Malt-duſt, Rags, *&c.* and tho' more remote from *London*, yet is this in a great Meaſure compenſated by their Water-Carriage, that gives many of them a profitable Opportunity of conveying their Grain, Bacon, Pickle-Pork, Butter, Cheeſe, Fowls, Eggs, and other Goods, at a cheap Rate thither. They may, indeed, object and ſay, they have not the Happineſs of enjoying encloſed Grounds as we have; and therefore can't do as they would. But this is frivolous, where they can have Flocks of Sheep to fold, and other Helps, as is witneſſed by many, even among us, that have the greateſt Part of their Farms in the open Fields, and yet plentiful Crops of Barley; and if they don't make quite ſo much of their Goods as we, have they not their ballancing Conveniencies in lieu thereof, as their more

more lower Rents, cheaper Servants, Fleſh, and other Proviſions for little Money, inſomuch, that I am even ſurprized their more knowing ſort, the Gentry, does not encourage their Tenants in Attempts of new Improvements: And particularly in reſpect to this Rath-ripe Barley; which if once fully known to them, I don't queſtion, but it would ſupplant their four row'd Big-Barley: However, becauſe it will grow in courſeſome Filths, and poor Ground, I ſuppoſe theſe two Reaſons ſufficient to prevent their endeavouring after new Acquiſitions in this ſort of Huſbandry: Theſe and many more Cauſes may be aſſign'd for their miſſing ſeveral advantagious Opportunities of being more their own Friends, as well as the Landlord's and King's; elſe Numbers of them would not be ſo ignorant, and be at an extraordinary Charge and Trouble of reaping and binding their Barley, as we do our Wheat here, which bears a great Diſpoportion of Expence; for one Man with the Scythe, will mow two Acres of Barley in one Day, when its good Work for four Men to reap it in that Time. But this is only one Remark of the many old Faſhion ways of Husbandry moſt of them at this Day are guilty of.

Sprat *Barley*,

So called from its flat Ear Sprat-like, and is ſomewhat different from the common *Engliſh*, Rath-ripe, or Big-barley, its Grains jetting from its two Sides almoſt horizontally, has ſomewhat a larger Kernel, a thin Skin, and full of Flower, makes good Drink, and rather better Bread than the other Sorts; for which Reaſon its commonly ſold for Two-pence a Buſhel more than they: It may be ſowed in the rankeſt Grounds; becauſe it runs not into ſo much Straw as the common Sort does. Its frequently ſown in *Norfolk*, *Cambridge*, and *Northamptonſhire*, and is not ſo ſubject to fall down as the common ſort.

Turkey *Barley.*

THIS moſt excellent Grain appears to the Eye to be half Wheat, and half Barley, rather bigger body'd than any of the *Engliſh* Sorts, but grows like it in the Ear. I had a Handful ſent me by a curious Member of the Royal Society, that I ſowed in my Garden, but loſt it by an unlucky Accident. Another he preſented to the D— of *R——d*, which I hope ſucceeded well, for there was but a ſmall Matter of it brought over. It's ſaid to make much more and better Malt Liquor than the common Sort, and has other good Properties, as appears by the following Letter, *viz.*

Friend ELLIS, *London, Feb.* 18. 1733.

'I Lately received an uncommon Grain from *Turkey*, 'it is like both Barley and Wheat, but is there 'called naked Barley, being like Wheat without a 'Huſk; but has more the Property of Barley, than 'Wheat: It is told me to be a great Bearer, makes 'excellent Malt, is fine Horſe-Corn, and good to fat-'ten Hogs. I deſire thy Acceptance of the incloſed, it 'may be beſt to ſow it in ſome protected Place, the 'better to ſave Seed, and obſerve its Growth in our 'Climate: I have with great Pleaſure read thy late 'curious Book, and I have ſent ſeveral to our Nor-'thern Colonies in *America*, which, if duly minded, 'may tend very much to their Improvement in Agri-'culture; for thy great Skill in the cultivating of the 'various Sorts of Corn, I thought nobody ſo proper 'as thyſelf to make Experiments on this Grain in 'our Country. I ſhall be glad to ſee thee, or hear 'what Succeſs thou haſt with it.

I am thy Friend,

And well-wiſher,

P. C.

The

The Vale-Way of making Tilth *for Barley.*

No Grain whatſoever agrees better with a fine Tilth than this, as is apparent by the ſmall Return it makes in rough ſour Grounds, and the great Increaſe in a ſweet fine Earth; therefore be ſure let your Barley not want this Benefit, where it can be had; for its this very Reaſon that makes the Vale-Farmer ſay, unleſs his Mould is almoſt fine enough to run through a Sieve, he can't hope for a Crop; and accordingly they give their Land one whole Summer's, two Winters, and part of a Spring's Preparation, in all a Year and a half. — Thus — From Harveſt to *April* they let it lie, and only feed Sheep on the Land: Then in this Month they fallow; the next Plowing is a firſt Stirree the latter end of *May*; the ſecond Stirree is performed juſt before Harveſt. The next plowing is called a laying up in *October*, and ſo they leave it till *March* or this Month, when they plow and ſow their Barley; and it's to be obſerved, that in all theſe Operations of plowing, they never harrow till they begin to ſow, becauſe in their black Clayey Moulds, ſmall Froſts, and even the very Air will ſhoal and crumble it to a Fineneſs: Therefore immediately before they begin to plow for ſowing, they ſow one Caſt of Barley all over the half Acre Land, then they directly plow it, by caſting the Ground down with their Foot-Plow this time, tho' in all the ſeveral Plowings before, they ridged up: When this is performed they directly harrow once in a Place, to prevent the Barley coming in Thoroughs, and then they ſow the ſame Land twice in a Place, beginning at the Thorough, and ſowing to the Ridge the firſt Time; and the ſecond they begin at the Ridge, and ſow to the Thorough; by which Means the two laſt Sowings are done in croſs Caſts that the Grain may come regular; then they harrow twice in a Place long-ways. But in Broad Acre-Lands it is more difficult to ſow this Grain true, becauſe they have not ſo ſure a Guide as

in the Half-Acre Lands that direct by Ridge and Thorough: Therefore it is, we ſay, in the Vale — That he is a good Sower, who can ſow ſuch an Acre-Land broad Caſt, without leaving a Seam in the Middle of it, —— which is beſt prevented by ſowing them out of the Hand.

Plowing *and Sowing in the* Chilterne *for a Crop of Barley.*

IN *Hertfordſhire* for about forty or fifty Years paſt, that Turnips have been ſown in the common Fields, they very ſeldom allow a Year and a half's Plowing to get the Land into a Tilth for Barley; but take a ſhorter and much more profitable way to do it, than thoſe in the Vale can: And for this Purpoſe we commonly chuſe our Oat-Stubble before that of Peaſe, Beans, or Thetches, by reaſon theſe will do better with none, or a little Manuring for Wheat than that of Oats will. Thus at *All-Hallontide* we begin to fallow for Turnips, by plowing up the Oat-Stubble into four thorough'd Stitches, or Bouts, or into Broad-lands. If into four thorough'd Stiches, which is the beſt Way for all Clays or ſtiff Loams, then the Beginning of this Month we plow it into four thorough'd Stiches again off the former. The Beginning of *June*, bout the Stitch down, and harrow overthwart plain; then dung the Ground all over, and draw out your Thoroughs croſs the way it lay in before, and plow into Broad lands, which ſhould be directly harrowed twice in a Place long-ways, and then ſown with Turnip-ſeed, that muſt be only harrow'd once in a Place a-croſs. Now all this is done preparatory to a Crop of Barley; for when theſe Turnips are eaten off in *January*, *February*, or *March*, ſome will give the Ground only one plowing, and harrow in the Barley: Others will give it two plowings quickly after one another, and then immediately ſow and harrow in the Grain. If the Oat-Stubble in *November* is fallowed into Bouts, which is beſt done in Lands

Lands lighter then Clays or ſtiff Loams; then the Beginning of *April* bout it off the former Bouts, and let it lye till *June*, when we bout it down: But if the Earth is pretty fine, then thoroughing down will be ſufficient. After this in about a Week's time harrow it acroſs, dung, plow, and ſow your Turnip-ſeed in order to dreſs the Land for a Crop of Barley as before. If you fallow the Oat-Stubble into Broad Lands at *All-Hallontide* as many do, and is the very beſt way where you deſign to dreſs the Ground with the Sheep-fold for Turnips; then the Beginning of this Month plow it into Broad-lands again the ſame way it lay in laſt, and fold on the ſame till *June*, when it ſhould be comb'd or hack'd with the Fallow-Wheel-Plough croſs-ways, aud harrowed plain: The next and laſt time, it ſhould be plowed croſs-ways into Broad-Lands, harrowed and ſowed with Turnip-ſeed to meliorate and prepare the Ground for a Crop of Barley to follow. But the very beſt way of all others to prepare any Stubble for Turnips, is to fallow clean the firſt Time, by plowing the Land in *November* into four thorough'd Stitches, or Broad Lands; and is of ſuch Conſequence that it ought to be a ſtandard Rule, where the Ground will admit of ſuch an Operation.

Plowing *and Sowing for a Crop of Barley the* Middleſex *Way.*

Between *Watford* and *London* few, or none, of their Farmers ſow Turnips, and but little Barley, becauſe they ſay, their yellow clayiſh and wet loamy Ground is rather too wet for either of them; and what Barley they do ſow is in half Lands, as many are between St. *Albans* and *Hatfield*, ſome lying in ſix Thoroughs, others in eight, performed by the Swing Plough, which they moſtly ridge up with, and level it with the Harrows: So that they very ſeldom plow acroſs, nor forward very often for Barley; for they hardly ever allow it a Fallow for this Grain, al-

alledging that they can't afford to loſe a Year or more by letting the Ground lie under the Plough; but then the Conſequence is, that they get about two Quarters of Barley off an Acre, inſtead of ſeven, eight, or more. Upon my asking the Reaſon of this, they told me, that when they dung very much, its laid flat, and then they miſs their Crop; and if they don't manure, then the Thiſtles and Weeds choak the Barley, and they are as bad off this Way. But the true Cauſe is, they won't give the Ground a Fallow to get it into a Tilth; for without that, all the Dung they can lay on, will not produce them a good Crop of Barley. Their eight thorough'd Lands are about thirteen Feet wide; our Broad-Lands contain as many more Feet, and lie with a ſmall Ridge in the middle, and a Thorough on each ſide the Land, but ſo flat, that we often plow acroſs, which breaks the Ground more, and ſweetens it better and ſooner, than that plowed always one Way: However I muſt give them their due; they get good Crops of Wheat and Beans, and are moſt excellent Husbandmen for turning their Dunghils and managing their Meadow Ground; but for plowing, and ſuffering their Ground to be over-run with Thiſtles in the Fallow Seaſon for Wheat, and for hedging, I cannot praiſe them. But theſe Caſes alter as the Soil differs, as I am going to ſhew.

The *Weſt-Country Way.*

IN *Dorſetſhire*, and ſome other Parts of the Weſt, they generally ſow Quantities of Clover and Trefoil, *&c.* for their Sheep, and when their Graſſes have been fed one or two Years, and a Crop of Barley is to ſucceed on their hilly, chalky Loams; they give ſuch Ground only one Plowing, and harrow in their Barley, and that for very good Reaſons; for firſt this ſort of Soil is naturally of ſo looſe and ſweet a Nature, that one Plowing here is equivalent to three in Clays or Loams. Secondly, if ſuch ſhort Earth

Earth was to be plowed oftener, the Red Poppy in particular would conſequently breed and deſtroy or damage the Crop of Barley, by the great Suction of its Roots, and its ſpreading Stalks that cover much, and kill the Corn under and near them; and is the greateſt Bane-weed except a Cats-tail of all others that infeſt chalky Grounds. Thirdly, it prevents the ſecond Growth of Trefoil, which is very apt to grow again in any Land that is directly twice or more plowed after it, and be a greater Crop the ſecond time than when firſt ſown. Laſtly, they have another Beneſit by only one plowing of this chalky Land, and that is on account of the Graſs-Cruſt, which by being only turned Topſy-turvey, lies and nouriſhes the Roots of the Barley that ſtrike into it; for the Surface of any Ground is the richeſt Part of it; but Clays or Loamy Grounds won't admit of this Sort of Practice ſo well as chalky or ſandy Earths, becauſe of their more rough, ſour, and ſtiff Natures.

Plowing *and Sowing of Barley in the Eaſtern Part of* Hertfordſhire.

ABOUT *Buntingford* that lies on the Edge of *Eſſex*, they ſow half their Barley-Seed in four thorough'd Stitches as we do our Wheat, and the other half they harrow in; afterwards they roll it with a piece of Wood about three — Foot long in ſhape of a Nine-pin that turns on a Spindle faſtened by Wyths to the Traces of the Horſe, and ſo one Thorough and part of two Ridges are rolled at a Time, the Horſe always going in the Thorough. Their Wheat and Oats they alſo ſtrain in and manage the ſame way; and leaving the Stitches very flat, they mow their Barley and Oats with a Scythe and Cradle; but their Peas and Beans that they here ſow together, grow in flat half Broad-Lands. And this is done, on account of their wet ſpewy Ground, that they ſeldom plow any other way than in Length, becauſe of their Drains that they have of late made in their Fields, by dig-

digging deep Trenches in ſeveral Parts of ſome of their large ones, which they fill up with Black-Thorn Buſhes, then cover with Mould, and ſo fitted for the Plough; and this they find very much anſwers their End; for that where they formerly could hardly get any Corn, they have vaſt Crops; inſomuch that one Gentleman in theſe Parts is annually at fifty Pounds a Year Charge for this very Work, and ſo dextrous are the Workmen in this County, that they are now and then imploy'd at great Diſtances.

Rolling *of Barley.*

THIS is indiſpenſably neceſſary for ſeveral Reaſons. Firſt, it ſmooths the Ground for mowing. Secondly, it faſtens the Earth about the Grains Body, and thereby ſecures it in a great Meaſure againſt the Damage of Heats and Droughts Thirdly, when Barley is rolled at two or three Inches Growth, the Clots are broken and diſpers'd about the Roots of the Corn, which it new moulds up, covers, and very much aſſiſts. But the Vale-men are the lateſt Rollers of all others, letting this Work alone ſometimes till the Barley is handful high; for they are of Opinion that the rough Earth defends their ſprouting Corn in ſome Degree againſt the Violence of ſharp, cutting Winds that, in their large open Fields, have no other Shelter in many Places. But beware you don't roll it when it is ſpindled, leſt by bruiſing the Stalks, you ſpoil the whole Crop; tho' when the Ground is very clotty, as it generally is after Turnips, ſome will roll and harrow two Days together; but to make the preſent Opportunity, ſeveral roll it the ſame Day they ſow it, while the Moiſture is in the new plowed up Earth, leſt dy delaying, it drys and hardens. And as I am on the Subject of Rolling, I ſhall here publiſh the Deſcription of a moſt uſeful Roll, newly invented and communicated to me by an ingenious Gentleman of the North, for the ſpeedy Reduction of all rough clotty dry Earths, that had either lately Turnips on them

them, or in Fallow, or otherwiſe; which conſequently muſt be of very great Importance to the Farmer in dry Seaſons to prevent Delays of ſowing either of Turnip-Seed, Wheat, Barley, *&c.* For many times while we wait for wet Weather, to moiſten the Clots, and make them fit for rolling or harrowing; we loſe moſt valuable Opportunities of ſowing our Grain. Beſides, when ſuch Ground can be made fine without Water, we have the greater Advantage of ſowing our Seed in a dry Time. This,

New invented Roll

REQUIRES to be made with a Wood that will ſplit and crack the leaſt of any other, and that is Elm; becauſe in a piece of ſeven Foot long, and eighteen Inches Diameter, there muſt be drove in Iron Spikes of ſeven Inches long in all; that is to ſay, three Inches muſt be in the Body of the Roll, and four without, at two Inches aſunder throughout the whole Length, and drove by a Man that ſits in a Box over it; and as the Roll is drawn along, the Harrows ſhould immediately follow, that their Tynes may enter the Holes made by the preſſure of the Roll, and thereby be more capable of tearing ſuch rough, hard, dry Land into a more level and finer Conſiſtence; for it is uſual with us to imploy our common Roll to craſh the Clots, and prepare it for the Harrow. But take this neceſſary and profitable Caution with you, — never to roll your Barley as ſoon as ſown in the *Chiltern* Country in any ſtiff Ground, leſt by bruiſing the Clots flat, they hinder the Corn's coming up. I know a very accurate Farmer that ſaid he has buried many Quarters ſo, and therefore lets it lie two or three Weeks for the Weather to ſlacken the Clots, and then when rolled, 'twill let many Corns out that lay under them, and be a Sort of Dreſſing to the reſt.

The Process of plowing up an Oat-Stubble for Barley.

THERE was a Meadow, that was a Farmer's next to me, plowed up and sowed for the first time with Oats to kill the Roots of the Grass, and hollow and prepare the Ground for after Crops of Corn. Accordingly the next Year in *January* 1734, with the Double plow he turned the Oat-Stubble into four thorough'd Stitches, at going once backward and forward, which no single Plough can, without going four Times; and thus it lay till the Beginning of *March*, when he bouted it down with the single Fallow-Wheel-Plough: Then on the 12th of *April* 1735, he harrowed it plain, and plowed it with the Double-Plough cross the last-way into Broad-Lands; which he directly sowed with Barley on all the rough Ground, by crossing the Casts, whereby he sows the Ground twice over, and then harrowed it both ways till it lay fine. Thus sowing the Barley on the rough Earth, is by this Farmer thought the best Way of all others in his gravelly Loams, because it hales or covers best against a dry Summer, and the Beaks of Birds. —— Objection, —— Others say, that by sowing the Grain on the rough Ground, the Barley comes in Rows in the Thorough, and in Holes, that the Horses Feet, and the Clots, are the Occasion of, which I think carries too much Truth with it to deny; where this Work is done with the Single-Plough: But this Man's was performed with the excellent Double-Plough, that makes narrow Thoroughs, and thereby better adapts the Ground to receive the Seed in a more even Manner. —— Another of his Neighbours refuseth this Way, and if the Ground is clotty, he sows each Broad-Land that contains nine Steps in Breadth, with two Casts of Barley, one against the other on the rough Earth, after the last Plowing; then harrows once in a Place, and sows the same Land again with two Casts more in the like Manner he did before, which we call crossing the Casts; then harrows

it

it plain both-ways till it lies fine. —— Another will follow neither of these Methods, if the Ground is hollow and fine; for then he gives it first a Tyne or harrowing once in a Place, and then sows it twice over with Barley by closing the Casts; upon which he directly harrows both-ways till the Seed is well covered. For my own Part, I make use of all three Ways, according to the Nature of the Soil, and the Condition it is in to receive the Barley. But this last way is by most preferr'd in Clays and stiff Loams, because there is less Ground lost, than when the Land is sown rough. Others in chalky Loams, and light Earth, allow the rough Ground the best Security against Droughts, *&c.*

Manures *for Barley.*

ASHES. — These are of several Sorts, as being made from Coal, Wood, Earth, Furze, Ferne, Straw, Lime, and many other Things which I could write a long Account of, if I had not been confined to a narrow Volume. I knew a Person that dress'd his Barley with Peat-Ashes that he bought at *Leighton-Buzzard*, and they produc'd him a Laid-Crop; but as they are rather too far for me to fetch, I supply their Place with others. As to those made from Red-Clay, I must own they are good for this Purpose as well as Meadow Ground, if they are laid on to the Quantity of about eighty Bushels to an Acre. However, of late I have not used them, by reason of the Consumption they make of good Mould, that I was oblig'd to use to burn the Red Clay to Ashes; and also on account of the Trouble that attends the keeping the Fire under a regular and close Confinement; which likewise has had the same Effect on a Person I knew that burnt large Quantities of this Earth, till he was weary of the Fatigue and Charge of it. And therefore I am of Opinion that this Operation won't answer, but where such Brick-Earth is in great Plenty, an Incumbrance to its Owner, and his Condition such

that he can't conveniently get Manure otherways. But Aſhes made from Bean-Straw, are allowed to be the Strongeſt of all others; and next to them the Aſhes of Fern, when they are made from the greeniſh Sort that is mowed when in full Sap, as they do in ſome Parts of *Suffolk*, and burnt to what we call Pot-Aſh, which they ſell in great Quantities for making Caſtle-Soap: But if the Ferne is cut Ripe, the Aſhes are as poor as thoſe of Furze, which are not near ſo good as Wood-Aſhes, eſpecially if they are made from Aſh; for then they excel all others of the Tree-Tribe: On the contrary, the Aquaticks make the worſt of all the Wood-Sorts, as having the leaſt Share of Salt and Sulphur in their Sappy Bodies. And to know good from bad Aſhes, they are proved by taſting and feeling. If Good, they will taſte near as Salt as Gun-powder, and feel with a ſandy Harſh. But if Bad, they will taſte freſh, and feel ſmooth like Flour; and it is by theſe Rules the Aſhmen go by, when they make Eſſays of their Goodneſs, and which of late the Farmers have pried into more than formerly; ſince they have diſcovered their great Efficacy on both plowed and Graſs-Grounds. For my own Part, I bought five or ſix Cart Loads of them about the Neighbouring County the laſt Year; and I have now the Shew of great Quantities of Honey-Suckle among my other Graſs that they have been the chief Cauſe of producing. Yet are theſe inferior in Goodneſs to the right Coal-Aſhes that abound with more Sulphur than the Wood Sort, whoſe chiefeſt Benefit lies in the ſaline Part. Accordingly I ſow by the Hand out of the Seed Cott 50 Buſhels at leaſt of the Coal on an Acre of Meadow as ſufficient for two Years Dreſſing: When I ſow 70 of the Wood Sort, to anſwer the ſame Purpoſe, as believing there is all that Diſproportion in their Virtue or Strength. — Lime Aſhes, made at the Kiln, are laid on juſt before the laſt plowing for Barley, to the Quantity

of

of three Cart Loads on an Acre; but theſe are plowed in, very ſhallow, in Clay or wet Loamy Land, and the Barley harrowed on the ſame; for if they were to be harrowed in with the Barley, they would be apt to burn the Grain in a dry time. They are alſo uſed in the very ſame Manner for a Crop of Turnips; and are no leſs ſerviceable on Meadow Ground, by ſowing 100 ſingle Buſhels of them in *January* on an Acre; tho' ſome ſow Aſhes on their Land in *February*, *March*, and even in *April*. But before I conclude this Article, I ſhall obſerve the Caſe of a Perſon who attempted to burn this Red-Clay, and could not, tho' he had a good Workman, who made an Arch in the Clamp, and had Furzen and Wood-Faggots allowed him; which ſo diſpirited the Owner, that he laid the ſame Clay in a Hole on a Common to get rid of it, having before dug it to make a Pond; but I am apt to believe the Clay was too damp; for to make it burn well, it ſhould be laid thin to dry thoroughly good part of the Summer, tho' then its ſo apt to burn into a hard Subſtance (Clinker like,) as to defy the Froſts and Bandy; and ſo has the Mole-Banks that have been cored out of a Red-Clay Earth, which has made it be laid aſide in our Parts, and cauſed one of the Chief that has burned it, to dreſs the ſame Meadow with *London* Soot, that lately was dreſs'd with Clay Aſhes; and inſtead of uſing the Mole-Banks to burn with the Red-Clay, or alone, he puts about two Loads of them in a Heap, which in about a Year's Time will rot, and be fit to dreſs the Sward-Land with, and is an excellent way to thicken any thin Surface with; as being ſeveral times more in Quantity, than when reduced to Aſhes. But I remember that the Black-Aſhes made from Wheat, Barley, or Oat-Straw, are the worſt of all; likewiſe Aſhes made by the Diſtiller, Brewer, Glaſs-Houſe, and Smith; as alſo thoſe laid on Layſtalls about *London*, and expoſed to the Waſhing-Rains, are of little

little Service, becauſe by this Means theſe Coal-Aſhes are diveſted of their Salt and Sulphur. However, in a proper Month, I intend to make known a particular Vertue that there is in Straw-Aſhes, that will be of great Profit and Uſe to the Farmer: And I ſhould have obſerved before, that a Black, Blue, White, or Yellow Clay, make better Aſhes, and are eaſier burnt than the Red-Sort, becauſe they partake more of the Nature of Marle, than the Red-Brick Earth does.

Soot. —— This, I believe I may ſay, is one of the richeſt Manures we enjoy, either for Arable or Graſs Ground, as being a ſudden Forcer of moſt Vegetables it is applied to, provided it is laid on in a right Quantity, a true Manner, and at a proper Time. A certain late Author directs the laying on of forty Buſhels on an Acre as a common Allowance in *Hertfordſhire*, which is indeed ſufficient for two Acres, and is what we generally allow; for if this Quantity was made uſe of in a dry Time, it would burn up the Roots of the Barley; and if a wet one happens, it would, by its luxuriant ſulphureous Quality, cauſe it to fall flat with its heavy Bulk, to the great Loſs of the Owner, beſides exhauſting too much the Heart of the Ground. But as he was never a Farmer in this County, nor, I preſume, no where elſe ever Owner of a Plough, I don't wonder at his falling into a hear-ſay Miſtake, nor another in the ſame Paragraph; where he tells the World, that Soot is only to be uſed where the Land is wet or ſour, which I here alſo declare againſt; for we find by annual Experience it is a moſt powerful Dreſſing in all Sorts of Earth, and particularly in Barley-Ground, that it's ſo ſuitable to, as to cauſe it to branch and kern beyond any Manure whatſoever. Again, he tells us for a total Rule, to ſow or ſprinkle it on Land. It's true, we often uſe it in this Manner; but many good Husbandmen after the Barley is harrowed in, will ſow their

Soot

on the Top, and give it one harrowing a-croſs; and this they do to prevent the dry hot Weather helping the Soot to burn up the Roots of the Barley; which, by being thus a little covered in the Ground, is kept moiſt, and made to nouriſh in ſuch a Seaſon: tho' ſome have been ſo imprudent as to plow it in, as I knew one of my Neighbours once did on gravelly Tilth Ground about *Michaelmas*; and as ſoon as this was done, he ſtrain'd his Wheat, and plowed both in together; but the Reſult was, he loſt moſt of the Crop by it. For this Black-Powder has a Sort of unctuous Quality in it, which makes it mix with the Earth almoſt as quick as the hotter ſlack'd Lime, and both Soot and Aſhes have been found, in a few Years after Sowing, to get down the Depth the Plough goes, as appeared by the black Colour they gave the Earth. It's therefore to prevent the Waſting and ſinking in of this Manure too ſoon, that we either harrow it in with the Barley, or ſow it on the Top, after it is come up two or three Inches in Length. But to explain this Matter, for the better Apprehenſion of young Beginners, obſerve, that there are ſeveral ways of Management belonging to Manures according to their different Natures. Firſt, if Horn-ſhavings, Coney-Clippings, ſhort Horſe-dung, and ſuch-like groſs Dreſſings were to be uſed, then plowing them in the laſt Time, and harrowing in the Barley on the ſame, is the right Way. Secondly, If the Ground is to be aſſiſted with the next lighter Dreſſing as Malt-Duſt, Hens-dung, Pigeons-dung, Aſhes, *&c.* then ſowing and harrowing theſe in on the rough Ground after the laſt plowing, is à Propó. Thirdly, If the lighteſt Manures of all others, is to be a Dreſſing, as Soot, Slack'd-Lime, Oil, Cake Powder, *&c.* then they are only to be harrowed in the laſt Time, or ſowed afterwards on the Top. Twenty or twenty-five Buſhels at moſt is what we ſow on an Acre of Barley-Land, and is beſt done in a Dewy Calm Morn-

Morning, if it is to be ſown after the Barley is come up, that the Soot may directly make a Lodgment, and not be blown away; but more of this by and by.

Pigeons-Dung —— Is now become a univerſal Manure for Barley, where it can be had conveniently, and as ſuch is preferr'd to all others for its ſalt, ſulphureous, and unctuous Nature, being the Excrement of one of the hotteſt of Fowls, and therefore ſold for the greateſt Price of all other Dungs whatſoever, even 10*d. per* ſingle Buſhel, twice ſtampt down with the ſingle Foot, one a-croſs the other, and then heap'd again; yet notwithſtanding theſe excellent Qualities, it was leſs than thirty Years ago, that our *Gaddeſden* Farmers went down with their Teams into *Bedfordſhire*, and bought it for 6*d. per* Buſhel of theſe Men that make uſe of it now themſelves, who had not then a Notion it would be ſerviceable to their Vale, blackiſh, malmey Ground; but Experience proves it to be a moſt agreeable Dreſſing, both for all Sorts of Grain as well as Land; for which Reaſon it calls for our greateſt Diligence to obtain it; and then to manage it to the greateſt Advantage: To do which, I began a Heap in an Out-houſe the Beginning of Winter, and continued adding to it, till Barley Seaſon, in Order to meliorate and dry it, the better for preparing and bringing it into a ſhorter Body, that it may be the eaſier ſown with the Hand; and as a farrher Improvement to this Conveniency, it ſhould be thraſh'd on an Earthen Floor, till it is almoſt pulverized, that it may go near as far as Soot, for it is full as dear: Then when the Ground has been plowed the laſt Time, ſome will ſow it on the rough, and harrow half the Seed in with it once in a Place, and then directly ſow and harrow the other half of the Seed a-croſs the laſt Time once or more in a Place, as Occaſion requires. Others after the laſt plowing, firſt harrow the rough Ground

Ground once in a Place, ſow the Pigeons Dung all over the Land to the Quantity of twenty or twenty-five Buſhels on an Acre, and then immediately ſow the Barley, and harrow in all together long-ways, and croſs ways as the Ground is more or leſs fine.

Turkey, Geeſe, and Hens Dung — As theſe come from larger Fowls, they are conſequently more groſſer than Pigeons Dung; and therefore when they are got into a dry Condition, chop it with the Spade, and beat it with a Stick; that being thus made more ſhorter, it may be the better ſown in the ſame Faſhion the Pigeons Dung is. Eighty ſingle Buſhels of this, will dreſs an Acre of Barley-Lands well, and is ſold with us for Three pence the ſingle Buſhel looſely put in.

Rabbits-Dung. — This Sort of Dung we buy at *6d* each ſingle Buſhel ſtampt down with the Foot at Pleaſure, forty or fifty of which is reckon'd to manure an Acre of Barley-Ground well. It's a good Dreſſing, provided it has not been expoſed to the Wet; but not ſo efficacious as the Fowl Sorts are, by Reaſon one is made with Urine, and the other without it. I was told that in *Alisbury* great New Goal, a Debter had Liberty to deal this way, and kept three Hundred Breeding-Does, that made him as much Dung as he ſold for fifty Pounds a Year, and ſo on till he paid his Debts: And its ſaid, that a Farmer being more than ordinary curious in this Dreſſing, agreed with the Man to give him an extraordinary Price for the neat Treddle, clear of all Hay, Straw, Flaff, or other Mixture: Another Perſon at the ſame Time bargained to have ſome at the uſual Rate, as it came from the Hutches altogether; and then both made their Obſervations of their Effects, which plainly proved the latter Perſon's Choice to be right; becauſe the neat Dung did not near the Service as that mix'd with their downy Neſts, Straw, Hay, and other Stuff. This Manure is beſt harrow-

ed in with the Barley, becauſe 'tis much better than ſowing it afterwards, and leaving it on the Top of the Ground; where if dry Weather ſucceeds, it will remain in an infertile State; whereas by incorporating it with the Earth and Seed, they both have an immediate Benefit, from the ſaline and unctious Qualities of the Dung. This alſo I carry from under my Hutches once a Month, and put into a Heap, for the ſame Reaſons I do my Pigeons and Hens-Dung.

Short Horſe-Dung. — This I ſave all the Winter, clear of long Litter, in an Out-houſe, by cleaning the Stable in about once or twice in three Days; and thus I keep it from the Waſh of Rains, which would carry off the Salt and Sulphur of the Dung that are the richeſt Parts of it, made ſo by the large Quantities of Manger-Meat; beſides which I oblige my Servants to throw their Daily Piſs-Pots over it for encreaſing its Fertility; and now and then mix ſome Aſhes or Soot with it, to dry and make it more fit to ſow out of the Seed-Cott by the Hand, after the laſt plowing, and then we harrow it on the rough Ground with the Barley, or plow it firſt in; or it may be ſowed on the rough, and harrowed once in a Place before the Barley is ſowed. A great Farmer near me enjoys a good Conveniency of ſaving all his Horſe-Dung, by putting long and ſhort together as it comes out of the Stable under a Granary, that is built high enough to give room for a great Quantity to be lodged under it, where it heats and rots clear of all Wets; and as the Place is full, he takes it out, and lays it directly on the Land to be preſently plowed in, which in this manner enriches it for two or three Years together, and is reckoned to do as much good again as that expoſed to the Waſh of all Rains; and is of much lighter Carriage. This excellent Husbandry I have a great deal of Reaſon to recommend, from the great Service it did one of my Fields

of

of Barley in this and the next Month that was attended with frequent Rains and Froſts, even till Midd.-*May*; but they did not much hurt here, becauſe the Dung heated the Roots, made it grow apace, cauſed the Barley to mat, curl, and look of a blackiſh Green; while in ſome Grounds of many others, it turned yellow, ſickened, and died away. Five Cart Loads dreſſes an Acre, by ſowing it with the Hand.

Malt-Duſt. — Is a Manure of great Virtue, which we know not only from the Return it makes in Arable Grounds, but alſo by mixing it mith hot Water, as I have done for my Milch Cows, that it preſently converts into a firſt Wort Nature; and in caſe its uſed to aſſiſt a Crop of Barley, you'll find it anſwer excellently well in any Soil, provided you obſerve to ſow it after all the Plowings are done on the rough Ground before it is harrowed at all; for if you don't, you run a Riſque of loſing it; becauſe it being of a hard dry Subſtance, if it's harrowed in with the Barley on a ſmooth Surface, it may lie too ſhallow to be fermented by the Earth: Therefore it is we ſow and harrow it firſt on thorough Ground to obtain a deeper Covering, and then if dry Weather ſhould ſucceed, it will do great Service by the Help of this Coat of Mould; for which Reaſon ſome will tell you, it will do but little Good, unleſs you manage it after this Manner, and then we ſow the Barley and harrow it in once croſs-ways, and once long-ways, otherways if it was ſown with the Duſt, it would come in Rows. The Price with us, is one Shilling for a double Buſhel, and about twenty or twenty-five of them ſows one Acre. But then have a care you are not impoſed on with ſuch old Duſt as has loſt its Virtue by long keeping, or by its being laid in a damp Place and moulded, for then your Expectation may be deceived, this Manure will anſwer only this one Crop. But before I conclude this Article,

I think its but reaſonable to obſerve an Author's Direction for plowing in Malt-Duſt to dreſs Barley with without any Exception of Soils: I own him to be a Perſon of more Learning than myſelf, but, I think, not of Experience; and to do Juſtice to the World, I am obliged to apprize them of the Danger of ſuch a Practice; for if this Malt-Duſt be plowed into a gravelly Loam, or Clay, I dare aver its two to one odds, if it anſwers its Ends, though they are all Tilths becauſe its apt to lie too deep for the Berleys rooting into it preſently, and before the after Fibres can reach its Benefit, the Rains perhaps may waſh its Strength deeper into the Earth; for tho' the Roots of Grain often aſcend by the Attraction of the Sun's Heat, and the Help of their racinous Strings, yet is it not ſo with Manures that are dead naked Bodies, and ſubject by their own Gravity, and the Fall of heavy Rains to an expeditious Deſcenſion.

Oil-Cakes. — At *Haxton* near *Cambridge*, as well as ſeveral other Places, theſe are made in great Numbers, from Cole, Rape, Lint, Turnip, Carlook, Hemp, and other Seeds, after that the great Quantity of Oil as made by Expreſſion: The Cakes in the Shapes of Tyles or Stomachers, become dry, and are ground or beaten to Powder, that are ſown on the Land after the laſt plowing is done, and harrowed in with the Barley, or ſowed upon the Barley. Their Prices are various, ſome has been ſold for 20*s.* 300 Weight or 1000 Cakes makes 10 Quarters of Powder, at 4*l.* a Thouſand, and are a very fertile unctuous Dreſſing; that when fermented by the Earth, Air, and Rain, will adhere to its Parts, and is not ſo ſoon waſh'd away as ſome other light Dreſſings, and therefore very ſerviceable to the ſecond or ſucceeding Crop of Peas, Beans, Oats, Thetches, *&c.* Yet tho' this Manure is thus reduced to its loweſt Body, a certain Author orders it to be plowed in to dreſs a Barley-Crop,

Crop, but I ſay very likely to bury it, eſpecially in ſtiff heavy Soils: However, if he had no more Wit, I hope my Reader will, and avoid ſuch porſed wrong Practices that might be the Cauſe of a vaſt Loſs, where Fifty or a Hundred Acres of Barley are dreſs'd after ſuch an eroneous Manner; *20s.* Worth dreſſes an Acre. The other Sorts of Dreſſings for Barley, I muſt ſuſpend till another Oportutiny.

Of *Steeping Barley Seed.*

THE great Improvement by the Imbibition of the Seed in the following Compoſition, has of late yielded ſurpriſing Proofs to thoſe that have been ſo much their own Friends, as to put in Practice what I have publiſhed before on this Head; and therefore for the Publick Good, I ſhall enlarge on the ſame, *viz.*

PUT a Tap-wip, and Braſs Cock or Tapp into a Tubb, and in that three Buſhels and a half of Barley Seed. Then take a Pail full of ſcalding Water, and ſtir in two Pounds and a half of Chryſtal Nitre, which will diſſolve in leſs than a Quarter of an Hour; and immediately pour it over the Barley. Then pour another Pail of Water on the ſame whereon half a Peck of Stone-Lime has been ſlack'd. Upon this directly throw as much Mugell-hole-black Water, as will ſwim ſix Inches above the Barley and in that a Pint of common Salt. Thus the Barley is to ſoak from one Evening to the next, when the Liquor is to be drawn off, and the Grain put in a Heap on the Ground to lie one Night to drain and dry; then next Morning ſlack ſome Stone-Lime, and ſieve it on the Barley, mixing it with the Shovel till it is fit to ſow by the Hand out of the Seed Cott.

IN a fine Tilth and well-dreſs'd Ground, I think I may preſume to ſay, you may expect at leaſt ſeven Quarters of Barley at Harveſt for ſowing only three Buſhels and a half of Seed after this Manner on one Acre; eſpecially if a few Showers fall in ſome Time

Time after; for even in a very dry Summer this Succeſs has happened by Reaſon the Seed goes into the Ground full of the moſt fertile Liquor in the World.

THIS Receipt, may, for Expedition ſake, be followed, and is very good; but the true Orignal one I have publiſhed in the practical Farmer, and is ſold by *Stephen Auſten*, in St. *Paul's Church-yard* I have only to add here, that in caſe you ſow this ſteep'd Barley, and ſome unſteep'd in the ſame Field at one and the ſame Time, you muſt not be ſurprized if you ſee the latter come up before the former. The Reaſon is, that Niter or Salt-peter, tho' an inflammable Body, yet is it of ſo cool a Nature, as retards its Growth in ſome Degree, but then the wet Corn will far out-do the dry Corn in Branching and Largeneſs of Ear; and what is more, it will flouriſh and be an entire ripe Crop in a dry Summer, when the naked Corn will be later and under two or three Degrees of Maturity. That is to ſay, That Seed that lay deepeſt in the Ground, will then be firſt up; the next above it the ſecond; and that which lay neareſt the Surface, the laſt of all: So that at Harveſt, its very likely you may have ſome green Barley, ſome half ripe, and ſome ripe; which is prevented, as I have truly experienced, by this ſteeping of the Seed. And likewiſe of the great Service the Lime does, which not only dries and makes it fitter to ſow out of the Hand, but alſo warms and encreaſes the Fertility of the Seed; as was evidently prov'd this cold wet Spring 1735, when it very much aſſiſted the Barley againſt the Froſts and Chils that cauſed a great deal of the naked ſowed to ſuffer very much. I have been the more particular in hinting of the Lime, becauſe a Gentleman from *Glouceſter* made me a Viſit as he ſaid, on Purpoſe, to conſult me about this Steeping, and other Matters in Agriculture; telling me he followed my printed Directions in ſteeping his Barley-Seed this very Spring, but had

had not lim'd it, on account of his thinking that was only to make it the more fitter to be ſown out of the Hand. Before I conclude this Article, I muſt obſerve to you, that the ſame Liquor that remains after the firſt three Buſhels and a half is ſoaked, is to ſerve again towards ſoaking the ſame neat Quantity, by only adding a Pound or two of Nitre diſſolved as before, and as much *Mudgel-hole* Water as will ſwim above the Seed: And after this manner you may proceed to larger Quantities at Pleaſure.

The Proceſs of Plowing of a Wheat Stubble, &c. for Peas, and ſowing them after ſeveral Faſhions.

ABOUT *All-hallontide* plow the Wheat Stitch into a four thorough'd Stitch again, with the Wheel-narrow-Stitch-Plow; and thus let it lie till the latter End of *February*, when with the Fallow-Plough you may thorough it down, which is making only one large Thorough in the Middle of the Stitch, and when all the Field is thus done, then harrow it plain, and forthwith plow it a-croſs into Broad-Lands: Now as the Ground lies thus rough, ſow four Buſhels of Hog-Peaſe on an Acre Broad-Caſt, and harrow them twice in a Place one Way, and twice Overthwart. But to ſow the Blue, White, Puffin, or other tender Peas in this Month, the thoroughing down ſhould be let alone till about Midd.-*March*, and after it has lain about two Weeks, then harrow it plain, to lie for ſowing in *April*. Another Way to ſow Barley-Stubble with Hog-Peas, is to plow it into Broad-Lands the latter End of *February*, or in *March*, and directly harrow them in; but I think its a far better Method, in caſe it is a ſtiff Soil, to give ſuch Ground two Plowings, the firſt in *November* by bouting it up, which is half plowing the Land off Broad-Lands into a ſingle Sort of Stitch with the Fallow-Plough, and thus it may lie and ſweeten till *Candlemas*, when it ſhould be harrowed long-ways, and plowed and ſowed in four

four thorough'd Stitches by the Narrow-Plough. Another way to ſow theſe, or blue, or white Peas, is to ſow them Broad-Caſt on the Ground, and plow them in, harrowing after ſoundly. Another way is to plow half in, and harrow half in. Another Way is, to ſow half of them Broad-Caſt after the laſt Plowing on the rough Ground; and when the Harrow has been over once, then ſow the other half, and harrow in: This laſt Way is right for Gravels and all binding Earths, to ſecure the Peas from being bury'd, and is what I have done this very Seaſon with great Succeſs. In Stitches we ſow about three Buſhels and a half in four Thoroughs by a Man's Straining them in before the Plough. At the Beginning of the firſt Stitch, we call it Sowing the Caſt-Thorough; and when this one Thorough is ſowed, he ſows after the Plough all the reſt of the Field, by ſtraining the Seed in three other Thoroughs, which are called the Sleeving, the Stenting, and the Ridge. Theſe four ſeveral Thoroughs compoſe the Stitch, ſo that by this Means the Peas are covered very regular from the Power of the devouring Birds, and very much preſerv'd from Damage by Wet, or Drought. Others will ſow a Double Caſt at once; and then the Seeds-man goes only once backward and forwards of the Stitch. If the Peas are ſowed in Drills that the Plow makes, ſome ſow every third Thorough; others miſs one, and ſow every ſecond; others in Drills at a Foot and a half aſunder, and cover the Peas, by harrowing them plain long-ways; and when they are about four Inches high, they hough them for the firſt Time; and when about ten Inches, they hough a ſecond time; for all which our Day-Labourers have five Shillings *per* Acre. But obſerve, that ſuch Ground in which Peas are to be drill'd, ſhould have two Plowings at leaſt, that the Land may be in a Tilth, and then the Weeds will be fewer, the Earth looſer, and the Howing eaſier. By this Sort of Management, I have had Nine or Ten

Buſhels

Buſhels of Blue-Peas for ſowing one in Drills about one Foot and a half aſunder in a Field remote from my Houſe, that was of the Loamy-Sort; for Stony Ground or Gravels, are not ſo fit for this Undertaking; nor ſhould this be done in very poor Land; for the Peas are hindred in their Branching, in their Largeneſs, and their coming to an early Market. Some therefore will ſow Fowls-Dung in the Drills, or ſhort Horſe-Dung; and if Malt-Duſt, or the Oil-Cake was uſed in this Caſe, it might be of good Service.

ANOTHER Farmer, near me, went another way to Work the latter End of this Month; when he had go this Ground into good Order, he made a Thorough or Drill with the Plough at every four Foot Diſtance, and therein ſowed his White *Eſſex Reading*-Peas that he bought at *Watford* for five Shillings *per* Buſhel; and when he ſowed one Thorough, he directly turned another with the Plough, and covered them. In this manner he proceeded throughout the Field till all was done, and then he harrowed all long-ways once in a Place; for if he had harrowed a-croſs, the Tynes would have been apt to tear the Peas out of the Drills. Then he ſowed his Turnip-Seed over the ſame Field, and harrowed it once in a Place the ſame way he did laſt. Thus both Peas and Turnips grew till they were fit to hough, and afterwards gathered and ſold about the Country: The Peas in great Peaſcods, and the Turnips in Harveſt-Time.

ANOTHER Farmer managed his Blue-Rounceval-Pea thus — The Ground being in a good Tilth, and ſmooth; a-croſs the laſt way with the Lent-Seed-Plough, he made a ſhallow Thorough, and drill'd in the Peas, which he covered by a Turn of the next Thorough that was made a little deeper; the next deeper than that, and the fourth deeper than any of the reſt: By this Operation there will be three Thoroughs unſown, and only one ſown, to give room

for the more ſpreading of the Pea-Haulm, ſecuring them in ſome Meaſure againſt the Cold-Winds, by the high lying of the three deeper Caſts, and diſcouraging of the Sluggs by the Roughneſs and large Clots of the Earth: And thus he proceeded throughout the Field, which afterwards muſt be houghed once or twice, taking particular Care the firſt or ſecond Time to pull the Peas all one Way, to hinder the Wind confuſing them.

ANOTHER Way — Or when your Ground is fine and level; by a Line make a Shallow Thorough with your Hough, or better with the Broad-End of a Mattock, and drill in your Peaſe, which you may cover by going with the Toes wide, and the Heels cloſe; then proceed at three Foot Diſtance to do the ſame, and ſo on. And thus a Field has been proffered me to be done by a Gardener at 18*d. per* Acre, and by this Method there will be no Occaſion for the Harrows; only to be houghed afterwards.

TIME of ſowing PEAS, —— The Horn, and *Windſor* Grey Hog-Peas, will bear ſowing in *January* or *February*, in Chalks, Gravels, or Dry Loams. The Maple-Pea in *March*. The *Dutch* Admial Puffin, Blue, *Eſſex*, *Reading*, &c will do beſt in this Month, either in dry or wettiſh Lands, becauſe then the ſevere Froſts are partly over. On the 12th of *April* 1735, a Neighbour of mine was ſowing this Day his Maple-Peas in four Thoroughs, on the Wheat-Stitch on one plowing in a gravelly Loam, which is the lateſt I ever knew done; and upon asking him how it happened, he told me that formerly he ſow'd his next Field in Midd-*April* with Horſe Beans and Maple-Peas mixed, and had the beſt Crop he ever had in his Life: Which poſſibly might be, by Means of a following wet Summer; but I think ſuch an Afternoon Farmer under a great Riſque of loſing his Crop; for its a Maxim among us —— Sow early and

and have Corn; ſow late and have Straw. —— And accordingly his Crop proved a bad one.

QUANTITY of PEAS. —— The greateſt Field Crop that ever I heard of, was enjoyed by one of our Pariſhioners, and that was five Quarters on an Acre, but then they were much ſwelled by the Wets. Others have had five Loads, or twenty-five Buſhels off an Acre, and is a very good Crop, conſidering none of them were ſowed in Drills and howed. One Root of the Horn-green Sort, having yielded fifty-one Pods that contain'd 171 Peas in them. One of our beſt Farmers has commonly the greateſt Crop of Peas, becauſe he plows up his Wheat or other Stubbles, that remain'd in Clays and ſtiff-Soils, preſently after Harveſt into four thorough'd Stiches, that he lets lie till next Spring, and then harrows long-ways, and plows and ſows his Peas in four thorough'd Stitches in *January*, *February*, or *March*.

SEED PEAS. — Take Care they be fair, large of the Sort, and Sound; for if they are mow-burned, or ſtink, they ſeldom grow: Some will firſt ſoak them in Water to make them come the ſooner out of the Ground, eſpecially if they are two Years old, but it is dangerous; for if great Rains fall preſently after, it will be apt to burſt or rot them in the Ground.

SOWING and harrowing of Peas, *&c.* — Straining or Sowing out of the Hand in a Thorough directly before you, is a Method commonly practiſed both in Stiches and Broad-Lands in our Chiltern Fields, by paying a Sower one Shilling a Day to ſtrain or ſprain Hog-Peas after the Plough; and by many is thought preferable to ſowing them Broad-Caſt firſt, and plowing them in without the extraordinary Man (for then the Plow-man does it.) The Difference is advantagious; for if you plow in the ſcattered Seed, by the Turn of the next Thorough's Earth, they fall into Holes and the deepeſt part of the Bottom: But

when ſtrain'd in, they come more Regular, lie more Broader, Shallower, and ſave half a Buſhel in five Buſhels of the Seed, which will pay the Sower his Wages. And now I am upon this Particular, I ſhall relate a Caſe that happened to two of my Neighbours laſt Year, that ſowed their Hog-Peaſe Broad-Caſt, and then plow'd them in, in a gravelly Loam; and being thus plowed in under Thorough, they directly harrowed ſoundly: But one loſt moſt of his Crop when the other had a good one. The Reaſon was, that one plowed them in very ſhallow with the Broad-pointed Share in Foot-Plough; and the other with the Sharp-pointed Share in the Wheel-Plough plowed them in too deep and buried them. Harrowing of Peas is oftenеſt done as ſoon as ſown; or in a few Days after more or leſs. If they are under Thorough in Broad Lands, we harrow ſeveral Times Long-ways and Croſs-ways. But if the Ground is plowed before the Peas are ſown, then leſs harrowing may ſerve it, if the Earth is not very clotty. And when they are ſown in Stitches we directly harrow Long-ways, and ſometimes a-croſs if very rough, and the Stitches lie not too high. In Drills commonly Long-ways. Another of my Neighbours harrowed his Peas croſs the Way the Land was laſt plowed in, juſt as they peep'd up their Heads, and they proved an excellent Crop; for by harrowing then he new moulded them, that did them the Service. Another Farmer being accidentally at Harrow in a Field next to another Man's, where Peas had been ſown and bound in a gravelly Soil, by the Fall of great Rains preſently after they were ſowed; the Horſes took Fright at ſomthing, and ran through or over a Hedge into the ſame with the Harrows behind them; and where they drew them a-croſs the Field, the Peas came up and flouriſhed, but where they did not go, the Peas did not come out. Another Farmer had a Field almoſt eaten up by a Flock of Sheep, by their breaking

breaking through a Hedge, when they were about four Inches high, that afterwards branched and prov'd the beſt Crop he ever had.

A PARTICULAR Caſe of Beans, Peas and Slugs, or Snails— This laſt Winter 1734, was known to be a mild one, as being attended with very little Froſts and Snow, but often with great Rains, and ſo continued to the latter End of this Month. By which the grey and blackiſh Slugs, or ſmall naked Snails, kept towards the Surface of the Earth great part of the Time, eſpecially in the Spring, when they encreaſed to that Degree, that they attacked their greateſt beloved Food, thoſe tender Peas that were ſowed ſo early as to appear the latter End of *March*, and continued their Rapine all this Month, till they intirely ſpoiled many Fields. One of my Neighbours having three near devoured by them, about ſix Acres each. Another in our Pariſh had his ſo cleared by them, that he was forced to plow up the ſame Ground and ſow it with White-Oats about the laſt of this Month. Another re-ſowed his with blue Peas. Thus theſe numerous Peſts of the Field proved the greateſt Enemies to the forward ſowed Peas, becauſe they happened chiefly to be the firſt Subſiſtence they met and loved. Now, as it fell out, I was ſo fortunate to eſcape moſt of this common Diſaſter in five Fields that I this Spring 1735, ſowed with the Cod-ware. By Reaſon in the firſt Place my Multitude of Buſineſs obliged me to ſow late, and thereby the Days grew longer, and the Weather warmer and dryer, which the watry cold Nature of the Slug does not agree with. In the next Place I was no leſs ſucceſsful in ſowing two Fields with half Beans and Peas which I commonly do by way of Security; for if the Peas are eaten up by the Sluggs, or killed by Wets or Colds, the Beans generally eſcape unhurt, as being Proof by their hardy, bitter, tough Nature againſt thoſe Extremities. From all which I infer, that a Farmer ſhould,

ſhould, upon Obſervation of the paſt Winter take his Meaſures accordingly in the Spring, and allow for the Sluggs breeding in mild Winters; and therefore, where the Ground is fit, ſow Beans and Peas mix'd together, or Horſe-beans alone, that he may eſcape that Deſtruction that moſt of the Chiltern Country was under this Spring on account of Peas. Our common Remedy againſt theſe Inſects is, rolling the Peaſe with a Roll of Beech about ſeven Foot long, and eighteen Inches thick, in the Morning early, or at Evening; for then theſe Ravagers come from under the Clots, and gnaw the Stalks and Heads. But this Operation is generally performed in a Week, two, or three after the Peaſe are harrowed in, whether the Slugs infeſt them or not; becauſe the Ground requires to be rolled ſmooth for the more convenient hooking or mowing them at Harveſt: And by ſo doing many of them are ſqueezed to Death, and others ſo bruiſed that they are hindered doing much Miſchief: Others are ſo bound in the Ground that they cannot get out; and often times the very dry Weather alone is thought to kill many of them. Some roll them when they juſt all appear above Ground, others won't till they are three or four Inches high, as thinking the Heads and Stalks of the Peaſe not impeded by the preſſing of the Roll; and this ſome do on Stitches Long-ways, as well as in Broad-Lands both on Beans and Peas. But I was ſurprized to find the Slugs lie on a Piece of Ground that had but ſix Days before been ſown with Blue-Peas in four thorough'd Stitches, notwithſtanding it had juſt been harrowed; however, here they lay very thick, tho' my Neighbour's Cloſe was but an Acre and a half adjoining to his Houſe, and about 26 Hens daily rang'd over the ſame; yet it could not be perceiv'd they meddled with one of theſe Snails; which made me think if a Number of Ducks were in their room, they would go near to clear the Ground; and on this Account

count its thought the Rooks and Daws do Service.

N.B. *As I have in a former Book wrote of uſing the Plough, to ſupply the Hough in a Bean Crop, I intend in my next Month to write of the ſame in the Pea-Service, according to my own Management and ſome others.*

Rotten Sheep.

THIS Month we commonly turn out our Store-Sheep for the firſt Time from the Incloſure to the Common, where they generally meet with a poor ſhort, flaſhy, Graſs that often occaſions the Gripes, Cholick, Red-water, and ſometimes a Rot. This was partly my Caſe in this Month laſt Year, when I loſt two Ewes by the Gripes or Cholick on *Gaddeſdon Green*; upon which, for haſte-ſake, I gave the reſt their Doſes of the following Gun-Powder Liquor, and they all ſtood well. The Floods that happened in the Harveſt 1734, brought by Degrees a Rot on many of the Vale-Sheep, that ſeveral of the more ingenious fatted in the Beginning with Horſe-Beans; ſome in Troughs, others would let the Sheep eat them out of the Pods in Pens under Cover with Hay Racks, and Water conſtantly by them; for they were in this Year very cheap, being ſold at *Leighton-Buzzard* in *Bedfordſhire* for thirteen Shillings *per* Quarter. And ſo poſitive was one Man at *Dunſtable May-Fair* laſt, of the great Virtue of the Bean, that he declared before many others, with the Help of them, and his opening the Skin of the Weather near his Pizzle, and the like to the Ewe near her Udder with his Penknife, to draw off the Water lodged between the Skin and the Fleſh, he had cured ſeveral that the Rot had begun in. This excellent Food, containing in it a great Quantity of Sulphur in a mealy Subſtance, makes it hot, dry, and nouriſhing; and therefore the moſt adapted to fat a Rotten Sheep of all others, as being of an oppoſite Nature to the cold, watry, earthy,

earthy, poiſonous Quality of the Graſs that bred the Damage; and not only fleſhes them in a little Time, but with ſo ſmall a Charge as about 3*s*.6*d* when Beans are at that Price; for a rotten Sheep will fat ſooner than a Sound one; but it is to be obſerved, that they will fall away again after a Time, and then there is no recovering them; for which Reaſon they muſt be killed at that Criſis when you perceive the Declination begin; for ſold they muſt be for what can be got. The Liver in this Caſe, contains many little watry Bladders, and mattery Knots, and ſometimes flat Plaiſe-worms; which being the Fountain of the Blood that circulates throughout the Body, muſt conſequently injure that in ſome Degree, as it is more or leſs corrupted. However, it has been the Vale-Farmers good Fortune to eſcape this Accident theſe four Years paſt; tho' it commonly happens once in three, and is the greateſt Calamity they are incident to. In this Misfortune happy is he who has a generous Landlord, that ſometimes allows towards this and the Loſs by Floods; otherways ſome of them would be hard put to it to pay eight or nine Shillings *per* Acre, for their open Field-Land, that they can't improve as we in our hilly Incloſures. But the Rot did not prove a general one this Year, for ſeveral Flocks eſcaped, particularly thoſe who fed in the higheſt Part of the Vale-Grounds, or in the dryer Soils, or had Straw or Hay in plenty given them in due Time, or had the Antidote of wholeſome Drinks beſtowed on them before it was too late.

But the laſt Year 1735, was in a great Meaſure different from the preceding one; for as the whole Summer was attended with Rains, even from *Lady-Day* to *October*, and ſeldom a Night without a little Froſt, ſome Sheep got their Bane almoſt from that time; and thus it became a Lean Rot, which kept them in a Lingring Condition moſt part of the Summer: So that they died in *September*, *October* and *November*,

November, and all the Winter following in ſuch great Numbers, that the Vale-Fields became a nauſeous diſmal Sight: And thoſe live ones that were expoſed to Sale in Markets, were many of them ſold for 1*s.* a piece, nay, ſome for 6*d.* a Head; which made it a general Rot, not only for Sheep, but even the Hares and Rabbits came under the ſame Misfortune in low Grounds. And what is Particular, the very Geeſe and young Hogs were not free from this Diſaſter; for many of their Livers appear'd rotten; which is not to be wondered at, if we conſider that theſe, as well as Sheep and other Animals, by their numerous and repeated Treads in long Rainy Seaſons on the ſoft wettiſh Grounds, ſo daub and ſtain the Graſs with the Filth of their putrified Dungs, Urines, and ſticky Earths, as to give it an unwholeſome, poiſonous Quality that infects the Blood of the Creature, and converts it into a wateriſh Nature, which for want of a warm Sun, and dry Weather, lies in their Bodies and cannot be diſcharged, as in other kind Seaſons, by Perſpiration through the Pores of their ſpungy Skins. Now as this was a lean Rot, the Summer before proved a fat one; becauſe it began about *Lammas*, when the Sheep had the beſt part of the warm Weather to fleſh themſelves in; ſo that the Farmer in this Caſe is not under ſuch a Concern and Loſs, as when a Rot happens in the Spring; for then the Butcher will often give within two Shillings in ten of what they are worth when ſound. But their Loſs in 1735, did not end with the Winter, becauſe in the Spring, many that held out till that time died, after a conſiderable Charge of keeping them with Straw and Hay, *&c.*

The Cauſe of the Rot. —— Often Experience has prov'd, that great and continued Rains for ſome time waſh the Dung of Beaſts and Fowls, the Naſtineſs of dead Inſects, and other putrify'd Filths upon the low Graſs, and arable Grounds, where Sheep

are oblig'd to get their Food; and when this happens about *Midſummer*, or Harveſt, it is then the moſt dangerous of any other Time, becauſe —— The hotter the Weather, the greater the Taint. — It alſo affects new ſhorn Sheep by the Rain's mildewing their Skin and corrupting the Blood; for this is a moſt porous Creature, ſubject to receive a great deal of Moiſture from the Air, Rains, and Graſs, which enables them to live without Water, more than many others, and therefore this is called the Skin or Pelt-Rot. In *May*, and ſome other Summer Months, the Cobwebs hang on the Ground and Hedges, which the Sheep lick up with their Feeding; likewiſe when you ſee a gliſtering like Spiders Webs, or a white Jelly, Froth or Foam on the Graſs about or after *All-Hallontide*, then conclude there are infectious Vapours ariſing out of the Ground, that fall again in poiſonous Dews, that will ſometimes be of a bitteriſh, brackiſh Taſte, eſpecially towards *October*, threatening the Health of the Sheep; for its paſt Contradiction, that ſome Grounds have deſtructive Qualities in them, and which undoubtedly ſend up their Effluvia's by the Attraction of the Sun's Heat to the Surface, where they are met and joined by the Sullidge, Scum, and Froth that lie on the Land, and are of fatal Conſequence to theſe Creatures; and no wonder, ſince the Nature of it may be eaſily perceived by its Fermentation, brought on by the beating of Rains, of Hail-Stones, running Motion of Waters that plaſheth the Dirt on the Graſs, and the ſubtle poiſonous Particles contained in its viſcid foamy Body, that ſeemingly is a ſort of Yeaſt of the Earth, which frequently fertilizes the Roots of Weeds and Graſs, ſo as to make them ſuddenly grow and ſhoot. Now as the Manure or Dreſſing is, ſo is the Nature, in ſome Degree, of the Vegetable it nouriſheth; and therefore it is we ſee that ſuch flaſhy, firm unheathful ſhort Graſs, and the Scum they lick up wth it, (eſpecially

cially after Snows or Hails are diſſolved, often rot them, or breed the deſtructive Red-Water, or make them Sick. Likewiſe if they be ſuffered to feed among old Graſs, that had not been mowed, in low moiſt Ground, they are apt to take a great deal of Water into them, which will make their Skin looſe, and their Lungs full of a Phlegmatick Water that rots them. In Summer Time when their Meadows are flooded in the Vale low Ground, in ſeveral of them there comes up a Weed about two Inches long called there — *Roger-Beam* — that grows in flat Bunches, with various turned Leaves ſomewhat like Houſe-Leek, and is found to be another Cauſe of the Sheeps rotting, becauſe they greedily eat this cold, watery, glewy Vegetable, that never is ſeen in arable Land, nor any where elſe in dry Summers. And ſo ſubject are theſe Animals to take the Rot, that leſs than an Hour's Time has brought it on them, according to the Story of the Drover, who driving a Flock out of the Weſt, to the Northward, happened to have one fail by the Way, which he killed, with a Sound Liver in it; and while he was about the ſame, the reſt graz'd in a wettiſh Ground, and died all rotten. A Shepherd alſo that look'd after a Flock of Sheep on the Edge of a Vale in *Oxfordſhire*, next to *Glouceſterſhire*; whilſt he was putting a Bell on one of them, all but ten got into an adjacent low Ground; and tho' they fed there only half an Hour, as it is ſaid, every one of them died rotten, except thoſe that ſtaid out. At *Overton* in *Hampſhire*, in a Butcher's Shop a Graſs-Lamb hung by the Heels intirely rotten; one of my Neighbours being there to buy Sheep, asked the Reaſon of it; the Butcher replied, it was fed in a low Ground, which might be eaſily and clearly prevented both in Lambs and Sheep, if upon an Apprehenſion of Danger, they would make uſe of my Receipts. But when I have told ſome Farmers of their great Efficacy, they ask'd me how they could

come by the Ingredients, and make the Liquor: I bid them look in my Book for Directions, and then there's a Stop; as believing ſo excellent a Thing would not be publiſhed in common.

Red-Water. — Is a Diſeaſe ſomewhat of a dropſical Nature, as appears by its watry Quality, that is of ſo red a Colour as to tincture the very Fleſh, attacking them in *February*, *March*, *April*, and moſt all other Times of the Year, by the raw Juice and Firmneſs of the new ſprouting Graſs, Wets, and bad Air, that eaſily get the Dominion of this Animal's Body, about theſe Seaſons; and partly alſo by their long paſt Winter's crude Feed on the arable Lands, and after Paſtures. It gives little Warning, and that as is, commonly ſhews itſelf by the Sheeps drooping two or three Days before its Exit. It affects both Weathers and Ews, and will kill ſome of them in a Week after Lambing. It differs from the Rot on ſeveral Accounts, being a Diſtemper that over-takes Sheep kept on hilly ſound Grounds, as well as in the Low Lands; for tho' this Red-Water breeds in them, yet are their Livers often Sound, and is the commoneſt and moſt fatal Malady that attends our Flocks about *Gaddeſdon-Hill*. The Remedy is direct Bleeding in the Foot, or under the Tail, and then an Application of bruiſed Rue, and Bay Salt mix'd together is to follow; or cut off a bit of the Ear or Tail, and do nothing to it. At the ſame time give my Gun-Powder Drink; but the Prevention is better than the Remedy, and that is performed by giving the Sheep in Time Sweet-Hay, or Straw or Bran, or Bran or Peaſe or Beans together. But a good Remedy to prevent the Red Water, is to drive them briskly about the Fold every Morning before they are let out; and ſo great Conſequence is this of, that many regard it as the beſt thing ever known to hinder the breeding of this fatal Diſeaſe when they feed on Commons and firm Graſs. Others are of Opinion, that the Red-

Water

Water is cauſed by a hot Quality in the Graſs or Weeds, eſpecially thoſe growing on dry Grounds, which produces a Plethory of ill-Blood, that abounds in ſuch a Quantity, as to force its Way out of the Veins into the Fleſh, and will ſhow itſelf by weeping through the very Skin, and is the Occaſion of its Red-Colour; from wence is bred an Inflammation or Fever, that kills very often in a little Time: and therefore Bleeding directly as ſoon as they are taken is a good Remedy, if it can be perceived ſoon enough by their Shiverings, or afterwards by the Heat of the Diſtemper; and then Cocters and Dryers are a Propó to be applied: As Sage, Comphrey, Plantain, Penny-royal, Wormwood, Shepherds-Bourſe, and the Bark of Elder, of all an equal Quantity, with ſome Allum boiled together in Spring-Water, and give to each Sheep ſix Spoonfuls at a Time now and then; or my Gun-Powder Drink before-mentioned, that contains a great deal of cool Nitre, *&c.* and would be a good Prevention, even in time of their Health againſt the Effects of a wet *May*, and the Rains that ſometimes fall before and after Harveſt, which fluſhes the Graſs, and often brings on the Red-Water and Rot; for the ſudden Firmneſs of the Graſs is generally Prejudicial to them, tho' the Rotten ones many of them linger till next *February*, *March*, *April*, and *May*, before they tip off. A Sheep that droops by Means of the Red-Water, has hardly any Blood, as may be proved by the cutting off a piece of the Ear, or Tail, for then there will ſometimes none flow, by reaſon it is almoſt all turned into this Water; from whence the Circulation is ſtopt, and Death enſues: Therefore on firſt Sight give it a Doſe of my Gun-Powder, or my Antimonial Drink, or a Quarter of a Pint of the Juice of Nettles now and then: Then ſet it on its Arſe, and with a Pen-knife make a Slit about an Inch long into the Skin, the Length-way, at the bottom of the Stomach or Brisket, and ſqueeze down

the

the Water that lies between the Skin and the Belly; when this is done, take a crooked Pack-Needle, and draw a Horſe-hair Rowel through both Sides of the Slit, which is to be daily turned: The Rowel muſt be made with ſeveral Hairs to the Thickneſs of a Whipcord, and tie it in a little Ring; out of this will iſſue Water in a little time, and ought to be done to all Sheep as ſoon as they droop, elſe this Diſtemper kills in a little Time; and if the Sheep ails nothing, its truly ſerviceable to throw out the Corruption, and preſerve the Beaſt in Health.

N. B. The Rowel muſt be annointed with Bacon-Greeſe and Turpentine mix'd.

To prevent and cure the Rot. — As a Security againſt, and for which I ſhall here give ſome Cautions, and expoſe ſeveral Receipts of great Value, viz. In *May* in particular, and ſome other Months, when the Webs and Slakes lie on the Ground, beſure not to unfold your Sheep till after Sun-riſing; and to be more ſafe, ſome will let them remain in till eight or nine a Clock, and then with or without your Dog, drive them briskly about the Fold as I have ſaid before, and it will give them a Breathing, and cauſe them to ſtale and dung to the enriching of the Ground, and better preparing them to feed; for by thus chaſing them in the Field, and a little afterwards on the Ground they are to graze on that Day, it will be of Service to them, by beating off the Mill-dews from the Graſs and other Dews that might prove hurtful to them. It alſo ſtirs the Humours, waſtes the Moiſture of their Bodies, and prevents the Effects of Rottenneſs; cauſing them to feed more leiſurely, and chuſe their Food more properly. For in ſuch dangerous Seaſons, they ſhould be kept in high dry Grounds, or have Hay given them, or other dry Meat. I knew a Farmer on this Account feed his Weathers in Summer with Sweet Straw every Night to keep them Sound. There is a great Difference, even

even in Meadow Graſſes: That which abounds with Plenty of Honey-Suckle Plantain, Wild-Thech, Lady's-Finger, *&c.* is the firmeſt and beſt of any to prevent the Rot, while the ſoft flaſhy Sorts will be apt to breed that Diſtemper. The Cure is impoſſible if not taken in Time before the Liver is waſted too much; however, even without any other Remedy, many have knit and recovered for a few Years, by only Change of Paſture from low to high Grounds; as has been often proved by the Sight of their Livers; which in this Caſe from a moiſt, tender, crumbling Subſtance, is converted to a hard cruſty one, furniſhed with griſtly Knots, that before were watry Bladders; and in this State ſeveral of them have bred up more than one or two Lambs before they died, or were kill'd; but ſuch Sheep will never be ſo thoroughly fat, as thoſe never touch'd.

Firſt Receipt. — Put one Ounce of Fountain common Salt, and an Ounce and a half of Gun-Powder into a Quart of Spring Water, and give four Spoonfuls to a Sheep at a Time, once a Week, Fortnight, or Month, as Occaſion calls; it will prevent Sickneſs, and keep them Sound.

A Second — Take ten Gallons of ſmall Beer-Wort, and boil well in it Sage, Penny-royal, Southernwood, Blood-Wort, Comfrey, and Shepherds-Purſe, of each a Handful; then ſtrain and work it with a little Yeaſt, and put three Pottles of common Salt into it; then tun it into your Veſſel, and keep it for Uſe. In this Month of *April*, eſpecially in Wet Weather, give ſix Spoonfuls once a Week. But if dry, once a Fortnight, till *May* is over or longer, according to Diſcretion. Likewiſe now and then chop ſome Rue ſmall, mix it with Tar, give a little at a Time to a Sheep, and it will purify the Blood, and cleanſe the Bowels of Corruption, and is ſaid to prevent and cure the Rot.

A Third

A Third Receipt. —— Which I think is far more preferable, and what exceeds all Remedies whatſoever for the Rot, is the following Antimonial Preparation, that may be juſtly called an Univerſal one againſt all Diſeaſes of the Blood, being one of the greateſt Purifiers of it known by Man. It is made of three Ingredients, *viz. Crude Antimony*, *Tartar*, and *Nitre*, prepared in a Crucible by the Chymiſt, and is called the Stellate or Starry Regulus of Antimony. Of this is made the Antimonial Vomiting Cup, that gives an Emetick Quality to Wine in ten or twelve Hours Time: As alſo the everlaſting Pill; one of the Bigneſs of a Grey-Pea is thought will laſt for ever, by cleaning it each time it is uſed; and is allowed to be a very efficacious Remedy againſt many Diſeaſes appertaining to the Body of Man. Of this ſame Regulus of Antimony, take one Ounce beaten to Powder, the finer the better; infuſe it a few Days in a Pint of Ale, with ſomewhat leſs than a Quarter of an Ounce of Grains of Paradice, reduced likewiſe to Powder (which is a very pleaſant and wholeſome Spice) and a little brown Sugar, enough only to give it juſt a ſweetiſh Taſte. — Or if urgent Occaſion require, you may mix it up and give it off Hand, in the Manner following: Shake the Bottle well, ſo as the Compoſition is thoroughly mixed; then warm a Quarter of a Pint of it, and give to one Sheep in a Morning by way of Prevention, once a Week, Fortnight, or Month, as the Danger is more or leſs; but if you ſuſpect the Liver to be damaged by the Rot being begun, then ſet the Sheep on her Arſe, make a ſlit and put in a Rowel as I have before directed, in order to draw off the corrupted dropſical Water that moſt Rotten Sheep are attended with; on which give the Antimonial Doſe once a Week, Fortnight, or Month, as Occaſion requires, through a Funnel, or with a Horn or Pot; and if the Danger is much perform the ſame Operation under the

the Jaw, where they are often jogg'd, that there may be room for a thorough Evacuation of the Water from out of the Fleſh, as well as that between it and the Skin, turning the little Rowel once every Day: But there are two ſeveral Ways more to draw off the Water, which I intend to write of in the next Month, and publiſh ſeveral more moſt uſeful and curious Receipts for the Benefit of this neceſſary Creature, that I can't inſert here conveniently, leſt I enlarge this Work at preſent beyond its due Extent: For which Reaſon I muſt poſtpone them, and other uſeful Matters, notwithſtanding the great Neceſſity there is for Rules and Directions to prevent the direful Effects, that are now ſo much dreaded, of the Taint that may remain of the laſt Year's Infection in the Graſs, and on the Land. The Regulus of Antimony which I uſe, I buy for four Shillings *per* Pound, of Mr. *Clutton*, Chymiſt, at the *Bell* and *Dragon* the Corner of *Warwick-Court*, oppoſite to *Chancery-Lane*, in *Holborn*; where you may likewiſe have the *Crocus Metallorum*, or Liver of Antimony for Horſes.

To know a Rotten Sheep. — In this and the preceding Months of *March* and *February*, many of our Farmers go to the Fairs to buy in a New Stock of Weathers and Ews; ſome two tooth'd, and ſome four tooth'd, are the common Sort; however, they are often bit in their Choice; becauſe on their being firſt taken with the Rot, it's very hard to diſcover the true State of their Condition, inſomuch that the Sheep-Bodgers, or Dealers themſelves, are ſometimes in this Reſpect under an Impoſition, which makes them when they buy in the Weſt, oblige the Seller to warrant them ſound, and return their Money in Proportion for ſo many that die in ſuch a Time; but in a Chance-market the Caſe is altered, becauſe here they are moſt Strangers, and their Words not to be depended on; ſo that your Judgment muſt now be brought to the Teſt; and if that fails, you may meet

with a conſiderable Loſs in a large Flock: Therefore feel your Weathers, and if the Cod is moiſt and wettiſh, it indicates Soundneſs, and ſo the Ewe will be between her Legs. But if dry, ſcurfy, and attended with a ſort of Glew or Wax, then the contrary; tho' the more general Way is to look on the Whites of the Eyes; and if they are furniſhed with reddiſh Streaks or Strings, then it is a Sign of Health: But if of a deadiſh white, its bad. Yet is this not always a Rule, for when a Sheep is but juſt touch'd with the Rot, there is hardly any Alteration to be perceived, and it is this that chiefly cauſes many to fall under a Deceit. However, to counterfeit a healthful Eye, ſome are ſo arch as to inflame it by the Application of Pepper or Salt, before they come into a Market. But there are other Ways that afford an Information when they are in for it; as when on pulling, the Wool comes off very eaſy and free, almoſt like a dead Leaf off a Tre, and then there will appear underneath a whitiſh, greeniſh Skin. So alſo when a Sheep is far gone in the Rot, he will be jogg'd under his Chops, and ſhow a Bag or Swelling that contains Water or Pus in it, and then they are in great Danger of being never cured, tho' they may linger on ſome Time.

Gelding-Lambs. — It is obſerved, that the Weſtern Sheep have the handſomeſt horned Heads of any; which helps forward their Sale, and is in ſome Meaſure procured by Art; for here they don't geld them preſently as moſt do, to be free from the Danger a late Caſtration is incident to; but let them go ſix or more Weeks before they take out their Stones; for nothing encreaſes the Growth of the Horn more than forbearing them ſome time; inſomuch, that late Gelding (its ſaid) has cauſed a Pole Breed to Horn. About us ſeveral make it a conſtant Rule to let their Ram-Lambs alone till *Eaſter*, and then geld all they have together, but no longer; for if you

you do, they'll be apt to crop the Sprouting Leaves of the Hedges, and then they'll certainly cauſe them to ſpot on the Cods, to an odds if they don't die in Gelding. Others hold it the beſt and ſureſt way to cut them from three to nine Days old, as being then freeſt from Rank Blood which is apt to fall into the Cod, at cutting or drawing, and there lie and kill them. To prevent and cure this, ſome put in the Powder of Roſin into the Cod to dry up the Blood, or apply Spirits of Turpentine. But I knew a Perſon let four of his Ram-Lambs go till *Auguſt*, and then draw'd them with his Teeth, by which time they got ſo rank, that two of them ſwelled, gangreen'd, and died. The other two were ſaved by firſt anointing a Candle with Hogs-Lard, and running it into the Cod ſeveral times; however, this did not thoroughly anſwer, till they beat the Yolk of an Egg and Horſe-Turpentine together in a Mortar, with which they beſmear'd a Tent, that they put in where the Candle had gone before every Day till it digeſted and was intirely cured. — The Operation of Gelding or Drawing of a Lamb is thus performed. Let one Perſon hold the Lamb with the back of it againſt his Breaſt, and two Feet in one Hand, and two in t'other. In this Poſture let another take the Tip of the Cod, with the Left Hand and cut the Top of it off with a ſharp Knife; then with the two Fore-Fingers and Thumbs of both Hands, ſlip the Cod ſoftly down over the Stone, and with your Teeth draw it gently, till at Length the String breaks. After the very ſame Method take out the other, and directly ſpit on the Cod; which as ſoon as done, annoint with Hogs-Lard or freſh Butter; and on the Lamb's drawing to get away cut a bit of the Tail off at the ſame Time. Then if the Weather is ſervere, houſe the Ewe and Lamb the ſame Night, but it Mild, let it go directly Abroad. And this cutting off a bit of the Tail is not only neceſſary in the Ram-Lamb, but the ſame in the Ewe; for by this

Means they'll be better loin'd, will appear broader and thicker to the Eye, and grow the faſter; becauſe the Meat has leſs to feed, and the Blood a ſhorter way to circulate. Others are of Opinion, that all Lambs that can be done, ſhould be gelt before the 20th of March. They'll recover in two or three Days Time, if the Weather is favourable, and thrive as faſt or faſter than thoſe uncut, with this further Advantage, that by this Means they'll have a Lump of Fat between their Legs, that others have not ſo much of, which makes them ſell to the Butcher and Butcher's Cuſtomer much better. This is the Way and Method that my Son yearly follows when he gelds my Lambs. But a Brother Farmer tells me when he has an Opportunity, he'll try a new Way that he thinks won't puniſh the Lamb ſo much, and is better: that is, when the Stones are drawn out a little way, he'll have a ſharp Knife ready and cut the Strings aſunder.

Age of Sheep. — At two Years old, they have two broad Middle Teeth, at three they have two more, one on each ſide the former; at four they have two more, and at five they have eight, which we call full Mouth'd. The firſt Year we call the Ewe a Lamb; the ſecond Year a Ewe Pug, or Teg; the third Year, a Thaive, and the fourth Year a Sheep. The Weather we call the firſt Year a Lamb, the ſecond Year a Weather Pug, or Teg; the third Year a Sherrug, and the fourth a Sheep. A Ewe goes one and twenty Weeks before ſhe lambs.

JUNE.

If your Clover, Rey-Graſs, Trefoil, *&c.* are high enough, as it commonly is in this Month, buy in Milch-Cows with a Calf by their Side; but take care that they be the Cows true Calves; for I have known a Bite in this Caſe practiſed by one who would reſent another's calling him Rogue; tho' at the ſame time I think he did not deſerve the Name of an honeſt Man, becauſe he ſuckled the Original Calf ſix or ſeven Weeks till

he

he ſold it fat to the Butcher; and to ſupply its Place, bought a young one in, and then drove both to ſell at a Market. And to naturalize this Baſtard Calf, they let it ſuck till it dungs; and when it has evacuated two or three Times with the ſame Cows Milk, ſhe generally becomes fond of it; ſo that in this Caſe it is hard to diſcover the Fraud otherways, than by obſerving the hinder part of the Cow, that will, by its Extenſion be a Sign of late Calving. Again, if her own Calf happen to die in a little Time by Accident: Then they take the Skin of the dead one, and rub over the Live new one, and its accepted of for a natural one. Take care alſo rhat you buy in a ſound Cow; for there are ſeveral that rot by feeding in Wet Grounds, others by Feeding on Grains, others by having too frequent Acceſs to the Hog-waſh Tub, others by drinking *Mudgel-Hole-Dunghill* Water, that then makes them Laxative, and in time ſcours them to Death. In the latter Caſe I know a Farmer, who having no other Conveniency than ſuch naſty Water, was forced to prevent the Misfortune, by ſelling off the old ones, and buying in new ones every third Year; and when a Cow is thus rotten and looſe, ſome uſe ſeveral Methods to ſtop it, by giving her, a Day or two before ſhe is drove to the Fair, —— Tanners Ouze, New Tobacco-Pipe, and Oak Bark boiled in Water; which after Straining, they give the Cow. Others Chalk and Verjuice, *&c.* But there is a Story of an Arch-Bite, that ſtuft a Diſhclout in behind juſt before the Cows entered the Market to prevent the ſcouring Sight.

To know the Age of a Cow. —— The next thing is to know the Age of a Cow, which being of great Conſequence to the Buyer, take the following Directions, *viz.* At two Years old they have two Broad-Teeth in the middle before; at three Years old they have two more, one on each ſide them; at four Years old they have two more; and at five Years they

they are all Broad or Cows Teeth as we call them; which I have thought proper to hint of for the ſake of the Buyer, and alſo on account of the Butchers often making this Way an advantagious Declaration of the Cow's or Oxen's Youth; by ſaying it had ſome of its Calf' Teeth in its Head when it was kill'd, tho' at three or four Years old; for ſo it was, becauſe it was calved with ſome of the ſame, that by this time were not ſhifted. — A ſecond way to know their Age is to obſerve that a Tipp ſhows itſelf at the End of each Horn at two Years old, and continues till the fourth Year, when a Shoot at the bottom of the Horn ſucceeds, and another next to that the fifth Year, and then they diſappear by being one at a Time diſperſed or turned into a Wrinkle, and as the Cow ages, theſe increaſe every Year one, that is to ſay at ſix Years old, ſhe has one on each Horn, at ſeven two, at eight three, and ſo on. Again, the firſt Year ſhe is a Calf, the ſecond a Bullock, the third a Heifer, and the fourth Year a Cow.

Hove in Cows and Horſes. Take care in this Month of hoving your Cows in Clover or Lucerne, for the ſhorter and younger the Graſs, the frimmer is the Sap, and ſooner it hoves. Therefore the ſame Morning you firſt turn your Cows into Clover or Lucerne, give them their Belly full of the beſt Hay; and when that is done, give them as much natural Graſs as they'll eat, then turn them directly into the Clover or Lucerne, and they'll be ſafe for that time, and very likely all the Summer. But if they are kept out of it a few Hours till their Bellies are empty, they are again liable to be hove; for which Reaſon, a long drift on't agree with theſe Graſſes. And it is on this very Account that I am forced to take particular Meaſures in this very Month with my Own Cows and Graſs. The Caſe is thus, my Home Cloſe being a Meadow, and a Field of Clover lying at a little

little Diſtance, I graze my Cows all Night in the Meadow; and as ſoon as milk'd in the Morning, drive them into my Clover, where they remain all Day; and tho' it is a rank Crop, and the Seaſon has been wet, I am not apprehenſive of Danger; becauſe they go into the Clover every Morning with a full Belly of Meadow Graſs. But if a Cow ſhould happen to be hov'd, drive, and even run her about if you can immediately; or give her a handful of Salt in ſome Chamber-lye in a Horn. I have an Account by a Letter, that in *Eſſex* they commonly give a hoved Cow a Doſe of Gun-Powder and Milk mixed together in a Horn, perhaps two or three Ounces to a Quart of Milk, and has relieved many. But the laſt Remedy is ſtabbing the Cow down-right into the Paunch with a Penknife (to let out the Wind) near the Loin and the out-ſide of the Backward Ribbs, and apply a Plaiſter of Pitch directly on the Wound; this has been ſucceſsful to my Knowledge. And of ſuch a windy Nature is this Clover and Lucerne, that in the former ſeveral Horſes have been killed, by being turned into it very Hungry in Wet Weather, and when the Graſs is very ſappy.

A Cow killed by the Garget. — In this Month ſuckling Calves begin to be plenty, and many ſold at *Leighton-Buzzard* in *Bedfordſhire*, and ſent from thence to *Grays* in *Eſſex*; where they receive and bring back fatted ones for *London*; and this chiefly by Means of their marſhy Grounds, that give them great Plenty of Graſs, when others on dryer Soils are burnt up; from which favourable Opportunity, and their acute Method and Management, make theſe Countrymen ſingular for fatning, and making Calves white; which they will do as ſoon as any, and, in my Opinion, better then thoſe in theſe Parts, that ſuckle their own Calves; notwithſtanding they are drove about thirty-four Miles to *London*, and afterwards ſent into *Eſſex*, and brought back again to *Smithfield*; for which Reaſon

ſon the Cow deſerves our beſt Notice, and eſpecially at her Calving: A particular Caſe of which I ſhall here inſert, as it happened to my next Neighbour, *viz.* The Cow calved well, but her Bags quickly began to grow hard and ſnarl'd, which in a little Time turned to a Garget. On this a skilful Perſon was ſent for, who took a good Handful of the Herb Hagtaper, and ſhred it ſmall, and boiled it in three Pints of Ale till it was ſoft. This when cool enough, was given at Night in a Horn, altogether as it was boiled, and next Morning the ſame Doſe was repeated. At the ſame time the Bag was anointed with the following Ointment, which is ſaid to out-do the Adders Tongue Sort. — Take a Pint of Bacon-Greaſe, and put a handful of Salt into it, to which add Laurel Leaves cut ſmall and boil together; then ſqueeze all through a Cloth. — The Drink will prevent the Garget within Side, and the Ointment will cure it without, if the Cow is milk'd often enough in the Time. But it happened otherways with this Cow through Miſmanagement; for the Owner ordering a Perſon to attend her all Night, and ſuckle, milk, and annoint the Bag every Hour, he did ſo. But the next Morning left her, and then the Calf got away that ſhould have been kept Cloſe, and almoſt conſtantly with her to draw her Bag: This Default threw the Garget out of her Bag into her Body, and killed her. This Hagtaper grows in Ditches under Hedges in gravelly or other hard Ground, has a Leaf about the Bigneſs of one's Foot, and a yellow Flower. It will diſperſe Knots in Bags, and clean the Milk at twice giving, as aforeſaid, and is therefore good to give Cows after calving; for it alters a curdled Milk in 24 Hours, but the Calf ſhould be with the Cow the firſt Night and Day, and milk her beſides as I have already hinted. It is an excellent way to prevent a knotty, gargetty Bag, that is apt to make the Milk unwholeſome for Man or Beaſt.

This

This Herb is alſo good for a Cough in the Human Body, by making a Syrrup of it, and giving a Spoonful at a time now and then: It blows in *June*, and ſhould be then gathered to be kept dry all the Year for Uſe.

A Second Way.--The Garget often begins with a Snarl-Bag by the great Quantity of Milk that is apt to breed the Knots or Cores, and ſo cauſe a Red Inflammation: Some therefore with the Flegmes that they bleed Horſes with, open the great Milk Vein that lies under the Belly of the Cow, and feeds the Bag; this will leſſen the Milk, and with anointing ſave the Cow.

A Third — Take hot Ale Grounds and mix them with half a Pound of Soap; then ſlit a Stick, and lay a Rag at the End of it, with which apply the Compoſition very warm a Quarter of an Hour together, and repeat often.

A Fourth. — Take Spirits of Lime, and mix with Ointment of Marſh Mallows, then annoint and rub it well in about all the Bag, and repeat, if Occaſion. This has done when others have failed; tho' our common Ointment for this Purpoſe is made in *May* with Adders Tongue and Rue pounded together, which ſqueeze, and boil the Juice and unſalted Butter to a Salve, to keep all the Year. *But I ſhall write more on this in next Month.*

Calving Cows — and Weaning Calves. — As ſoon as the Cow has calved, ſtrew a handful of Salt on each Side of the Calf for the Cow to lick, and it will very much forward the Cows gleaning, and help to keep her healthy. This is a Matter of Conſequence, and ought well to be regarded, becauſe if the Cow is not well watched, and ſhe eat her Glean, (which they naturally do) it will damage and leſſen her Milk afterwards, cauſe her Hair to ſtare, and hinder her Market, if ſhe is to be ſold. When the Cow has done Calving, and ſhe has lick'd her Calf clean,

ſuckle it as ſoon as it is able to ſtand, and what remains milk into a Pail, and give it the Cow to drink, which they generally are glad of; then let her Calf be with her the firſt Day and Night, and give her Water Blood warm for the firſt forty-eight Hours at leaſt, and by no Means that which is cold; if you do, its very likely ſhe falls and dies, as many have done, after calving well. But the better to enable a Cow to go through her Calving, ſhe ſhould not fail having Hay a Month or more before ſhe calves, when they can't come at good Graſs, that they mayn't fall in that Time; for through Poverty many Cows have not been able to riſe, and then they ſeldom recover. This is the beſt Month for Cows to calve in, becauſe the artificial Graſſes are now ready in many Places; and therefore the beſt Time of all to ſave thoſe for Weaning is now; becauſe they will make the ſtouteſt Cattle, by enjoying the Cow in Plenty of Milk, that will fully nouriſh the Calf againſt next Winter. To this Purpoſe many that have their Right in Foreſts, Chaces, and other large Grounds, let the Calf go with the Cow the firſt Year, in order to make it large; and of this ſort I was told there was a Cow and Calf brought to *Brigſtock* Fair, in *Northamptonſhire*, ſo big, that it was not eaſy to know one from the other at a Diſtance. But my Way has been otherways in Incloſures. I ſuckle the Calf Morning and Night for three or four Weeks together, and then with the Fore-Finger in its Mouth dip its Chops into ſome Milk, time after time till it is weaned; and then give it Milk and Water mix'd, and by repeating it, the Calf will come to drink itſelf, till Water alone, with Graſs, will maintain it altogether. Others will nail a Bit of Leather at the Bottom of a Trough about the Length of a Finger, which by Cuſtom, it will take greedily, and ſuck in the Milk; by which they will wean ſome at a Weak old, others older, But two or more is much better together, than one alone,

alone, for then they'll forget the Cow ſooner, and go on better; others will wean them with the Finger at three Days old as ſoon as they have drawn the Cow's Bag ſufficiently; and what ſeem'd ſtrange to me, I found theſe weaned Calves would, after ſome time that they could live wholly by grazing, do without any Water like a Sheep during the whole Summer, if it is not a very dry one. A Cow in good Health will often glean in two or three Hours: However, if it does not come away in any reaſonable Time give her the following Doſe: —— Take two Quarts of Butter-milk, one Ounce of Treacle, one Ounce of Flower of Brimſtone, ſimmer it till it turns, and give it in a Horn luke-warm. About an Hour after this, give her two Quarts of Milk-Porridge warm. Others gives a Ball of Caſtle-Soap as big as a Waſh-Ball. The Calf of an old Cow will run ſooner into Horn than one of a Heifer; alſo Weaning a Calf in *February* or *March*, will cauſe it to be a Year forwarder in Tooth, than one weaned in *May* or *June*, and earlier in Profit. But more of this in next Month.

Driving Cows. — The Driving Milch Cows is certainly of great Prejudice, both to their Fleſh and Milk, if it is to any conſiderable Diſtance, by Reaſon it cauſeth Soreneſs and Tenderneſs in the Feet, (eſpecially if it be hard Ground) which will in ſome Meaſure take off their Stomach to the Abatement of their Milk. This Misfortune a Cow is more liable to, on account of her Feet being cloven, naked, and expoſed to the Gravel, that we often find cripple a Horſe, notwithſtanding his Iron Shoes, and lame him for ſometime afterwards: For which Reaſon they commonly Shoe their Cows that are drove long Journeys on publick Roads. There was an Inſtance obſerved of the ill Conſequence of driving a Milch Cow in the Vale of *Aliſbury*, *viz.* The Cow gave nineteen Pints at a Meal, but never came up to the twentieth. It grazed in a Home-Cloſe be-

hind the Houſe where was no Drift, and a full Feed. Now it was the Cuſtom of the Place where this Cow grazed, to have free Liberty, eight Days before *Midſummer*, for large Cattle to eat up the Graſs in the Lanes at the End of the Corn-Lands, that under the Care of a Keeper commonly at this time of Year meet with a full Head; notwithſtanding which, and tho' the Drift was hardly a Quarter of a Mile, the Cow in leſs than a Week gave two Quarts of Milk leſs at a Meal; ſo that in this Reſpect an Acre of Graſs at Home, in my Opinion, is worth almoſt two at ſome Diſtance.

HOGS.

Clover being now high enough in moſt Places for feeding Horſes, Cows, Sheep, and Hogs, I have already cautioned you on account of the three firſt; but the Caſe is altered as to the laſt; for the Clover is dangerous to the former, when the latter may be hurtful to that; therefore ring them in Time, for a few Hogs will deſtroy a great deal in a little time; and as ſoon as wrung, give them hot Waſh, or tar their Snouts, and it will keep the Part from Swelling. Of all Graſſes there is none ſo good to feed and bring up young Shoats with as Clover, and eſpecially the Wild Sort, or black Breed, that will thrive and grow well in it, with only the help of ſome Waſh at Night, when the great *Leiceſterſhire* Hog will pine on ſuch Food. I have at this time three Sows of the *China*-Breed, ſome white and ſome black, whoſe Original was brought directly from thence about ſeven Years ago. They bring about ten Pigs at a time, are the beſt of Nurſes, will live and fat with half the Quantity of Meat, and in half the Time of ſome of the large *Engliſh* Sort; their Fleſh will make the ſweeteſt of Bacon and pickled Pork, weighing commonly about twenty Stone a-piece, and are ſo apt for the Boar, that if a Litter of Pigs are taken off one Day, ſome will wager they'll go to Boar on Turn of their

their Milk, or at fartheſt in three or four Days after, provided they are kept well all the Time. As ſoon as they have taken Boar throw ſome cold Water on their hind Part, as we commonly do to the Mare and Cow; then drive them well about, and keep them intirely ſhut up a Day and Night, without any Meat, that no other Hog come near them, and you'll ſeldom fail of Succeſs. I alſo keep one of the *Berkſhire* Breed, that are known by their ſandy-coloured Hair and black Spots, to be a hardy middle-ſized Sort, good-natur'd, and great Lovers of Clover and other Graſſes. Take care they don't drink *Mudgell-hole* putrified Water, that is often ſtagnated in this and the Summer Months: Some, indeed, that are conſtantly uſed to it, may poſſibly do well enough; but others that are not, will be liable to acquire that contagious fatal Diſtemper the Garget, occaſioned, I preſume, chiefly by the venomous Inſects that abound in great Numbers in ſuch Waters, and poiſon the Blood of the Beaſt. I once ſuffered on this very Account, but as it happened I took them in Time, and by a right Method I ſaved their Lives; yet are there many Hogs kill'd in a Year by this very Malady; tho' I ſhall ſhew hereafter in its proper Place another Cauſe that brings this Infection on the Hog. However the better to prevent this Miſchief,

TAKE Briony-Root, and keep it ſome time in the Waſh-Tub, and it will contribute much to keep off the Meazles, and Garget. Others will,

PUT Bares-Foot and Crow-Garlick among the Waſh, and it will have the ſame Effect; others will put Urine and Rue into it, to anſwer the ſame Purpoſe.

BUT the very beſt Remedy of all others, is once or twice a Week to put among their Wheat as much Crude powdered Antimony, as will lie on a Shilling, to each Hog, whether they be the Store or fat Sort; for this laſt is not only an Antidote againſt Diſeaſes,

but

but alſo will create an Appetite, and make them grow and fat the ſooner. Some again put Fenugreek and Turmerick into the Waſh to prevent it. The Garget generally ſhews itſelf two Ways; firſt, by a hard Swelling and Inflammation about their Dugs, when they begin to ſuckle; and the like in others under their Chops. The laſt is cured by putting a Bit of Hellebore Root in the griſtly Part of the Ear which is called Pegging, that will in about two or three Days time cauſe a Swelling, and then a Suppuration; iſſuing out a Matter that carries off the Corruption of the Blood, and ſaves the Beaſt that otherways generally dies. For the Former take freſh Butter that has no Salt in it, and mix with ſome chop'd Rue, which boil together, and ſtrain through a coarſe Cloth: With this anoint three or four Times, and it will reduce the Parts into their natural Order. If this Antimonial Remedy had been uſed laſt Year, there had not ſo many Hogs died of the Rot as did.

Artificial and natural Graſſes.

Clover. — This Excellent Graſs is now become very common, and much in Eſteem for its quick and frequent Growths and thriving in Clays and wettiſh Loams, being often ready in this Month for feeding of Cows, Horſes, Sheep, and Hogs, either in the Field or Soiling in the Stable, and is the moſt forward of any, except Rye-Graſs, but grows much later than that or any other; yet it has a very great Fault, as being apt to hove and kill both Horſe, Cow, and Sheep, as I have already ſhewn, and that when its young, ſooner than when older; becauſe at this Age the Sap is more luxuriant and ſtrong, and for the ſake of this ill Property, ſeveral Farmers have been tir'd of Sowing it alone for their Sheep. To remedy which they mix Trefoil in its black Huſk, and Rye-Graſs, and ſow all three together; others only the firſt two, others Trefoil alone. Ten Pounds of this Graſs-Seed ſows an Acre well, either among Oats, Barley,

Barley, Peaſe, Beans, or Wheat. It greatly delights in a fine Tilth, and will make both Butter and Cheeſe, but not ſo good as that from Meadow-Graſs, or Trefoil, *&c.* tho' ſeveral of our Chiltern Farmers carry on a Dairy, by Means of this and other artificial Graſſes. But ſuch an Undertaking, take my Word for it, requires a thorough Houſe-wife, or elſe it will fall ſhort of anſwering; for this Graſs is ſubject to hove the Cheeſe, and not make right good Butter, without great Care and Knowledge, as a Neighbour of mine finds by Experience; who after his skilful Wife was dead, could never meet with a Servant for Years after, that was capable of managing this Sort of Dairy. — When I was in *London* in *February* laſt, a Seedſman offered me ſome white Clover-Seed, that he ſaid was juſt come from *Holland*; I told him my Advice was, that he would not call it Clover, but white Honey-ſuckle Seed, for that it properly was; and is by ſome thought to be only the weakeſt Root, or the ſecond Shoot of the Red-Sort, and aſſign this Reaſon for it, that it is apparently ſo in Meadows in the ſecond Crop, which is then as much white headed as the firſt Crop was red. But this cunning Contrivance to gull the Cuſtomer, is much the ſame as the Cow-Graſs Seed that maintain'd a Reputation as ſuch for a few Years, till it was diſcovered to be of no other Species than abſolutely red Honey-ſuckle Seed. —— There is alſo a great Difference in the Nature of Clover, as well as other Vegetables, that are governed by the Soil they grow in, as for Example: A Farmer by me had a Field of Clover on the Side of a Hill, whoſe Staple was of the Clay-Sort; and in the bottom of the Foot of the ſame Hill, he had another Field of Clover, that had a gravelly Bottom. Now both theſe being under a Crop of Clover at one and the ſame time, he found the Hill Sort to hove his Sheep as ſoon again as that in the Bottom; becauſe this Graſs

grows

grows more luxuriant in Clays than in Gravels; for which Reaſon we commonly ſow a Mixture of Clover, Trefoil, or Rye-Graſs, to allay its Frimneſs, and prevents its Miſchief. This gives me a Notion that Clover-Seed ſaved from Clays, may be bigger and better to ſow than from Gravel; for the larger the Seed, the better the Crop; as is evident from the old Lamas Red-Wheat that grows in the black rich loamy Clays in the Vale of *Aliſbury*, which ſells for a greater Price than any in our chiltern Country on that very Account; as does alſo their Horſe-Beans for the ſame Reaſon. But when a Perſon ſows this Clover-Seed alone, in either Clays or Gravels to feed Horſe, Cows, or Sheep with, he ſhould ſow fourteen Pounds an Acre, inſtead of eight or ten, that it may come with a full thick Head, and the Stalks are never ſo rank as that ſown thinner; for the thicker the Graſs, the finer it is, and then it is not near ſo ſubject to hove Cattle.

Of Sowing Clover. —— When Peaſe were near a Foot high in this Month, a Farmer ſowed near twelve Pounds, and had a good Crop; others will ſow it among Wheat when its near that Heighth; ſome will roll in all the Clover they ever ſow, others will harrow all in. Now theſe ſeveral Ways give me an Opportunity of examining their Operations, and, firſt, as to thoſe that ſow Clover in this Manner among Peaſe or Beans, they certainly have the Advantage of Shade and warm Weather, that are both Friends to this ſmall Seed: This Heighth alſo gives them leave to ſow late, as I ſhall preſently further explain. Secondly, as for rolling in Clover, I aporove not of it, otherways than as there is a Neceſſity for ſo doing; becauſe to my Knowledge there have many Crops miſt on this very Account, by reaſon the Preſſure of the Roll is not ſufficient to invellop the Seed; and then its expoſed to the killing Froſts, cutting Winds, and burſting Rains of *March*, and

and *April*. Thirdly, it is therefore a ſurer Way to harrow in this Seed with Peaſe, Beans, or Oats. But then it muſt be done only once in a Place, and that the very laſt time of harrowing; for by ſo doing, the Harrow-Tynes cover the Seed to an Exceſs, and by giving it a medium Shelter, the ſmall Coat of upper Earth waſhes down, and impregnates the Seed with a fertilizing Aſſiſtance; beſides which, it is guarded in ſome degree againſt the deſtructive Slug-Flies, and other Inſects, as well as from the Beaks of ſmall and other Birds. But tho' theſe ſeveral Ways have been old and common Practices, I believe I ſhall ſhow you here a ſafer Way than any of them, and what will be much more preferable, and that is: Firſt for Wheat. An old experienced Farmer near me uſed to ſow his Clover-Seed about *Lady-Day*, or Beginning of *April*, among this Grain for his Sheep, and would not be convinced that it was then better let alone, and ſowed later, till he was made ſenſible of it by the Loſs he ſuſtained; for though the Wheat flouriſhed and ſeemed then very ſtrong, yet before Harveſt the Clover ſo crippled it, that it was but a poor Crop to what he expected. To avoid then the like Misfortune, ſow ten or twelve Pounds of Clover-Seed among your Wheat, in *May* before it ſhoots, and then the Time will be too ſhort for its Growth to do any Harm; beſides which, the Bulk of the Wheat by its Shade, will ſo hollow and moiſten the Ground, as to make it eaſily receive and nouriſh the Clover that now is out of Danger of the killing Froſts, ſcorcing Droughts, and leſs liable to be eat by the Slugs. Secondly for Barley, which generally ſpindles in *May*, and ſhoots in *June*; therefore about the laſt of *May*, or in *June*, ſow your Clover-Seed among the Barley, that it may enjoy the ſame Advantages. In a Field that I ſow'd this Seaſon late with this Corn, it was the 3d of *June* before I ſowed my Clover among it in a dry Afternoon, leſt the Seeds ſhould make a

Lodgment among the Slades of the Barley by the help of the Dews. Thirdly, in Oats I chuſe to ſow the Clover about the 25th of *June* before they ſhoot, for the ſame Reaſons. Fourthly, In a Field that I ſowed with Beans and Hog-Peaſe together, I threw my Clover-Seed over it on the 4th Day of *June*, juſt as the Beans began to bloſſom; and this I rather do, becauſe of the Fatality of more early Sowing of Clover, in ſeveral of my own as well as Neighbours Ground, occaſioned by the Nakedneſs the Seed lies in on the open Ground, where its capillary fine Roots are expoſed to the Froſts, Wets, Droughts, Winds, and Inſects, that are all, as I ſaid before, by this Means in a great Meaſure avoided; for Clover-Seed being a ſmall Body, will eaſily inſinuate itſelf into the Earth, and more than ordinary in theſe Seaſons, when the Ground and Elements are in full Vigour for bringing expeditiouſly forward the Germination of all Seeds. But if your Ground is rough and ſour, or if great Rains immediately ſucceed, then its hazardous.

Of preparing the Ground for Clover-Seeds. — When Ground is deſigned to be ſown with Clover, then give, whatever Stubble it be, two or more Plowings, one in *November*, *December*, or *January*, and the other when you ſow your Seed; by which you will enjoy a Tilth that is intirely a Propó to this Intent; for if the Ground is rough and ſour, good by Hopes, as being ſour to one Odds, in my Opinion, if a Crop ſucceeds (tho' ſometimes it may happen by the Clemency of the Weather, the Scarcity of Inſects, and the often harrowing of the Ground) but its ſuch a Chance, that no Wiſe-Man ought to truſt to, that can do otherways. Again, by ſuch two Plowings the Weeds are killed that often run up and hinder the Growth of the Clover; at the ſame time by the looſe Texture of the Earth, the Grain and Graſs Seeds meet with an eaſy Paſſage for their green Blades and Stalks out of it. But our Way here is,

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generally to ſow Clover among Oats, or Peaſe, or Beans, oftner than among Wheat, or Barley; becauſe by this Method we enjoy a Crop of this Graſs on the Fallow, that will, by either mowing or feeding, kill the Weeds and enrich the Ground: Hence it is that we have an Advantage in our dry Incloſures beyond them in the Vales, and common Fields, where they won't admit of ſowing Graſs-Seeds on the Fallow, and then their Ground produces nothing every third Summer. Whereas by this we enjoy a Crop every Year to a conſiderable Advantage to the great Farmer, who now is reckoned an indolent one, if he makes not this improvement: However, by the Way, let me tell you, that poor Grounds are more fitter to be ſown with Graſs-Seeds than rich ones; becauſe the former being commonly Gravels, hurlucky Chalks or Sands, they ſtand in need of it more than the other, and won't ſuffer by being ſour'd by them as the more rich ones will; that generally receive more Benefit from a Crop of Turnips in the Fallow Year for feeding their Sheep, and dreſſing the Land for Wheat or Barley; others think it will pay better to let ſuch fertile Land lie Fallow every third Summer, to ſweeten and get fine for a good Crop of Wheat that will pay better than Graſs and a bad Crop. And if a Crop of Clover was to lie two Years, then they think ſuch Ground will pay much more under Grain than Graſs.

Milling and Thraſhing of Clover Seeds. — This Article I preſume will be acceptable to many, when I tell them how to come by good Seed, on which depends very often the Succeſs of Crops. A Perſon having ſaved ſix Acres of Clover to ſtand for Seed, mowed and got it in well; afterwards he thraſh'd off the Heads, and carried them to the Clover-Mill, where it was mill'd for five Shillings per Hundred in *Glouceſterſhire*, as the Owner told me, and the ſix Acres yelded him a Thouſand Pound Weight. Now

by the milling it he got out conſiderable more Seed, than if he had thraſh'd it with the Flail; for by its violent Frotation, the minuteſt Seeds are forced out as well as the biggeſt to the Benefit of the Seller, but not to the Buyer; for ſuch underline Seeds, and not all the biggeſt ſhould not be expected to grow; becauſe the one is immature, and the other damaged by the bruiſe of the Mill: Whereas in Thraſhing, the ſmalleſt are left behind, and only the largeſt brought forth free of any Hurt. Again, our *Dutch* Clover, that is imported here in great Quantities I underſtand, ſuffers not only in the Singular, but in the plural Number; for as this Seed is ſav'd latter'd in Summer, it is ſomewhat difficult to get it in dry; however, be it dry or wet, they have it to the Kiln, and from thence to the Mill. The Kiln is to dry the Heads, and make them eaſily part with the Seed for the Mill's getting it out; and alſo for putting it in a Condition to keep long ſweet and good, but then conſequently there muſt be many burnt Seeds among them that will deceive the Eye, and won't grow. It is therefore I adviſe you when you buy, to wet the Ball of your Thumb, and lay it on them; then obſerve if there are many burnt, red, or bruiſed, or green or white, or very diminutive, it is bad; but if there is a good Quantity of a brown or purple Colour, then you are right; for of this Sort is commonly moſt of that I ſave myſelf, when I have a good time to inn it. I know very well, I vary much in the Management of Clover and many other Matters, from what has been ever wrote before by any Author whatſoever, or practiſed by moſt; but I don't doubt but you'll find the Superior Benefits of theſe Novelties, if you cloſely purſue my experienc'd Directions. And in next Month I intend to further enlarge on Clover, *&c.*

St Feyan. — As this Month and *March* are the principal Seaſons of the whole Year for ſowing that moſt

moſt uſeful Graſs *St Foyne*, which has made many poor chalky ſandy and gravelly Grounds, and even ſome of the Stony-Loams let for 20, 30, and 40 Shillings *per* Acre when planted well, that will grow and flouriſh in theſe Soils thirty or more Years together, if it is managed right. In the firſt Place therefore let your Ground be ſeveral times plowed till it is got into a fine Tilth; for I do aſſure you this Seed, tho' of a large Body, loves that Property in particular, as much as any whatſoever. In the next Place ſee that your Seed is of a fine, light brown reddiſh, and not blackiſh Colour, for then it is Mow burned, and won't grow. When the Ground and Seed are thus in nice Order, then in a dry time harrow four, five, or ſix Buſhels in an Acre with your Wheat, Barley, or Oats. Now it has employed the Study of ſeveral how to enjoy a full mowing Crop of this early Graſs the very next Summer after ſowing, by reaſon it ſeldom gathers enough to be ſo till the third Year. To this Purpoſe, as I was riding along *Bone-End* in this County, I ſaw a Farmer in *January* laſt, that had laid ſeveral Heaps of *London* Coal-Aſhes in his Field to ſow on *St. Foyne*, that had been taken the Year before among Barley. I ask'd him, why he dreſs'd it ſo ſoon: His Anſwer was, He hoped it would bring up ſome Honey-Suckle or other Graſs among it, that it might prove a full Crop the firſt Time of mowing. But this muſt be an uncertain Way to obtain a certain full Crop of this excellent Graſs, whoſe Hay is ſweeter and better for Cart-Horſes than that of Clover, or any other artificial Graſs. Therefore I will here make known a more aſſured Way to come by this ſpeedy Benefit, and that is, ſow alſo three or four Pounds at moſt of Clover-Seed the latter End of *May*, if its among Barley, or if Oats near *Midſummer*. Thus you'll come by plenty at once, and very likely not much hurt the *St. Foyne*, becauſe the Clover draws its Living ſhal-

ſhallower, and will be gone in about three or four Years Time; while the *St. Foyne*, ſhaded by its Cover, is puſhing its carrotty Roots a Foot or two deep; nor need there the leſs *St. Foyne*-Seed be ſown, for there is room enough for both to be a good Crop. Now the beſt Way to forward and ſecure a Crop of *St. Foyne*, is to ſow twenty-five Buſhels of pure *London* Soot over an Acre of Barley, as ſoon as it is a Finger's Length high, and then both the *St. Foyne* and Barley will make ſo quick a Growth, as to prevent the Breed of Weeds. But don't ſoot again till three Years after; for Ground thus dreſſed will violently force on ſuch Crops of *St. Foyne*, as to wear it out much ſooner than thoſe never dreſs'd but by the Feed of Cattle on the after or ſecond Crop. Again, obſerve never to feed the After-Crop with Sheep; for theſe Creatures having a narrower Mouth than a Horſe or Cow, will bite down into the very Root, and ſpoil or damage the *St. Foyne*, which I am ſenſible ſeveral do, but don't you follow the Example of the bad Manager. Yet that it is neceſſary to feed the After-Crop, I will ſhew by the following Caſe, *viz.* The firſt Crop of all *St. Foyn* I take for granted is beſt mown; for if it was fed, its large, and many ſucculent Stalks would bleed and run out ſo much Sap, as to kill it in a few Years. But a provident Overſeer out of Ignorance had a mind to improve a Crop of *St. Foyne*, by ſuffering no Cattle to feed on the After-Paſture; ſaying, if that rotted on the Ground, it would be as good as a Dreſſing The Conſequence was, that by ſo doing, the Weeds grew up, and got ſo much the aſcendant of the *St. Foyne*, as to cripple it, inſomuch that the Ground was plow'd up for another Uſe. Others have killed their Crop of *St. Foyne*, by ſowing Soot over it the ſecond Year, and not the firſt; for then the *St. Foyne* is young, and not full branch'd; and the Soot being a violent Forcer, bred ſome, and encourag'd the Growth of other

other Weeds that had before juſt begun to grow, and ſo brought them forward to do the Miſchief: Whereas all *St. Foyne* ſhould be ſooted the firſt Year, if rightly managed, with the Barley, and not after, till the third or fourth Year for the foregoing Reaſons. For tho' Soot is a killer of Moſs, and deſtroyer of Clobb-weed, *&c.* yet will it produce a Honey-Suckle, and aſſiſt wild and cheſs Graſs, *&c.* where they have already got Footing, and ſo will *London* Aſhes; and for ſomething of this Reaſon, ſeveral refuſe to ſow the Clover-Seed among the *St. Foyne*, as thinking it a little detrimental by growing faſter, and killing ſome of the *St. Foyne*. A Farmer that had a Crop of *St. Foyne* many Years, ſaid he never dreſſed it at all after the firſt Year it was ſown, and yet had vaſt Crops, and for a Reaſon he ſaid, that he found by the Horſes and Cows grazing on the After-Paſture every Year, it proved a ſort of Dreſſing to the Land, without forcing the Graſs too violently as Soot does; and therefore Aſhes of late are more in uſe on this Account than they were formerly, becauſe they don't draw and force ſo much as Soot, yet kill Moſs, Clobb-weed, and Twitch-graſs. When this Graſs happens to grow too thin, ſome will forbear mowing it till the Seed is almoſt ripe, that it may better ſcatter on the Ground, and thicken the Crop; but then ſuch Management makes the Hay much coarſer for cutting it after the Blooming time. Others to enjoy a Crop of this Graſs a Year ſooner than ordinary, will harrow it in with their Wheat on Broad-Lands a Fortnight before *Michaelmas*, and then it will be a Year forwarder in its Growth, than if ſown with Barley in the Spring; ſome will put on only fifteen Buſhels of Soot at a Time, inſtead of twenty or twenty-five, as thinking ſuch a little will do a great deal of good, and yet not force too much; and for the ſame Reaſon others will lay only every third Summer thirty Buſhels of Coal-Aſhes or Malt,

or

or Lime-Kiln-Aſhes on an Acre. This Seed is commonly ſold with us for half a Crown a Buſhel, and will produce in ſome Years three Loads on an Acre, and each Load worth twenty-five Shillings: But in the following Letter and Anſwer you'll have a further Account of *St. Foyne*, viz.

SIR,

I HAVE an Eſtate in the North, 200 Miles from *London*, and have incloſed about two Acres, with a ſtrong Wall for certain Purpoſes: The Soil is ſhallow, ſeldom above ten Inches from Lime Stone Rock, or looſe Lime Stones, and it was grown with Fern Thorn and Brambles, but the two laſt are eradicated, and it was plowed laſt Summer, and alſo this Winter, but never harrowed, and intend to plow it a third Time in *April*, and ſow it with Barley, and with ſome Graſs-Seed, to which Purpoſe have carefully peruſed *Switzer*, and alſo your two Books of Husbandry; and finding by your Books, that moſt of the Graſs-Seeds do at Length impoveriſh Land, and are therefore more Beneficial to Farmers, than Landlord (*St. Foyne* and *Lucerne* excepted); I am therefore moſtly inclined to thoſe two, but ſend this to requeſt your Opinion of thoſe Seeds, with reſpect to my Soil, and where I may buy them good at uſual Rates, if having Regard to the Wetneſs of the laſt Summer Seaſon, theſe two Seeds, or either of them, can be brought in a good Condition fit now to be ſown, and the Lucerne eſpecially to look Purple or brown coloured. I think to manage theſe two Acres for a Tryal, and proceed further or not, according to the Event thereof; and being an Admirer of your Books, (which I have) hope you will (tho' to a Stranger) write a few Lines in anſwer directed to me at —, and ſo oblige Yours

27. *Feb.* 1734, *W. B.*

SIR,

SIR,

IN anſwer to yours. Your converting Barren Ground to a fertile Uſe, is very laudable and pleaſant to hear of; but more when I underſtand Gentlemen take the right Method at firſt for after Advantages, that a Diſcouragement of wrong Management may not ſtop their future Proceedings; for which Purpoſe I ſhall hint of *St. Foyne* Seed, that at preſent is out of my Power to recommend, as not knowing where to be ſure of Right in a *London* Shop; becauſe if this Seed is older than one Year, it's a great Chance if it brings up a good Crop. An Inſtance of this Truth is now not far off me, where at this Time they are hacking a chalky Loam askew that was plowed in *November* laſt into Bouts, and at *Candlemas* dung'd and thorough'd down in order to ſow it with *St. Foyne* again among Oats; tho' it was but three Years ſince it was firſt laid down with a full Quantity of this Seed; but it being old and defective, it came very thin, and gave room to the Weed to get up and choak it. Wherefore by Conſequence ſeveral Adulterations happen to this Seed, after it is out of the Farmer's Hands, by ſome who are neceſſitated to get off their old Stocks, for which Reaſon I know a conſiderable Perſon to be at an extraordinary Expence on purpoſe to get Seeds genuine from the Savers themſelves. I live in a Country that abounds with *St. Foyne*, as being much on the chalky and hurlucky Rock; and if you think fit, I will get you ſome of laſt Year's Seed, that is of a brown Colour with a Shade of red, and ſend it to *London* or your Waggoner at *Dunſtable*, five Miles Diſtance, as I did 4000 of Land Sallow, Witch Elm, and other Sets in laſt Month to the Biſhop of *Oſſory*, in *Ireland*. The Lucerne is a Seed chiefly imported from *France*; and therefore muſt be bought at a *London* Seed-ſhop: The beſt Sort is the Brown and Purple, that may be better depended on, if you'll try a little

in a Hand's Breadth of Mould to obſerve its Growth, and then you may venture more ſafely. But was your Cloſe mine, inſtead of ſowing it with Barley and Graſs-Seeds this Year, I would get a Crop of Turnips on it for the following Reaſons. Firſt, it is to be ſuppoſed, that as the Ground was lately over-run with ſeveral tenacious ſtrong Weeds, there ſtill remains in the Earth ſome Numbers of ſmall fibrous Roots, which require not only the Operation of the Plough, but two Years time at leaſt to deſtroy; and therefore a Crop of Turnips will certainly be of exquiſite Service to cleanſe and further enrich your Soil by a Winter's feeding of Sheep; and above all, be one of your beſt Means to over-come the Ferne, that is ſo powerful a Weed in ſome Grounds, as has cauſed ſeveral to deſpair of ever killing; and nothing is more proper to ruin this or any other, than Summer Plowings and Houghings; your Staple of ten Inches being full deep enough for Turnips, this, and a Crop of Barley and *St. Foyne* or Lucerne next Year. For a Turnip affects all Ground, except a dry Chalk, Marſhes, or rich black Vale Earth.

Little Gaddeſden, *I am,* &c.
March 2. 1734. To *W. B.* Eſq; at — in *London.*

Treſoil. —— This with us is vulgarly and erroneouſly called Cinquefoil, that in *London* at the Seed-ſhop is ſold naked without its black Hull, but with us its always ſown in it, as giving the Seed an Advantage the better to reſiſt the Damage of Winds, Froſts, Rains, and Slugs; for by its Huſk or Hull, it's very much ſecured againſt thoſe Accidents till it roots, and accordingly we allow two Buſhels to be ſown alone, on one Acre, or one Buſhel with eight Pounds of Clover-Seed. It will grow on Chalks, Sands, and Gravels, to a good Purpoſe, when Clover won't anſwer near ſo well; and produces much and very ſweet Milk

Milk in Cows and Sheep, which makes it preferred alſo in Loamy Clays, for making Butter of a fine yellow Colour, by its yellow Bloſſom, and cauſing ſucking Lambs to fat very expeditiouſly: It likewiſe ſhades the Roots of the Clover when they grow together by its branching Head, and the ſame if ſowed with Rye-Graſs, and then often returns the Farmer a plentiful Crop of good Hay, or a large Quantity of good Seed that is moſt eaſily thraſh'd out. But then it has its Faults; as being the moſt apt, of all others, to grow as thick the ſecond time from its ſhed Seed, as it did at firſt ſowing, notwithſtanding the Ground on which it grew has been plowed ſeveral times; and in this Caſe has hurt and ſometimes ſpoiled the ſuceeeding Crop of Wheat; beſides, after *Midſummer* this Graſs grows but little, and therefore is its ſecond Crop of ſmall Value. In *July* its mown for Seed, when I ſhall further enlarge on the ſame. And here I recommend Mr. *Powell*, Seedſman near the *Croſs-Keys* Tavern, in *Holborn*, as a Perſon that keeps great Variety of good Seeds by him.

Rye-Graſs. —— Is certainly the moſt forward Graſs we have, and laſts longer than any, except *St. Foyne*, for which Reaſon it's very fit for Ewes and Lambs, and Cows in the Spring. It is alſo excellent to be ſowed on Ground that has been plowed up to kill Ferne, as is done in ſeveral Parks, and other Places to recover a Sward without Loſs of Time: Another I have known to ſow this Seed on plowed Grounds that have been encloſed for a Park, where the Soil has been a chalky Loam, in order to obtain a natural Sward as the Rye-Graſs wears off. But after *Midſummer* it grows ſo ſhort and coarſe, that it's of little Service. In Clays and ſtiff Loams it ſans much by its fibrous Roots, and therefore not proper to ſow as an annual Graſs, but where it is to remain ſome Years; it is frequently choſen to ſow with Clover,

Trefoil, and common Hay-Seeds for Cart-Horſes, Cows, Sheep, and Deer, but of its ſelf yieds too coarſe a Hay for Saddle and Race Horſes, Deer and Rabbits *&c.* It proſpers moſt in Clays and Loams, where it will grow to a great Burthen, and get the Dominion of any other Sort it is ſown with in about four Years Time; and when it thus happens, ſow Clover, Trefoil, or Rye-Graſs Seed among it, when it is pretty high the latter end of this Month, and roll it in. It is alſo advantagious to ſow Rye-Graſs, or the two others in Meadow-Ground, that has but lately been laid down, to thicken it, as ſome do ten or twelve Years after, and ſo continue the ſame every Year.

Lucerne Graſs. —— This new Graſs that there is a great deal of Writing about, I have ſown in a gravelly Loam, and a Loamy Clay; but find by experience it won't anſwer the Character that ſome Authors have given it without Foundation; nor has it in a Field of my Neighbour's on an Hill of about three Acres, that was ſowed intirely with it ſix Years ago, which is now in the very thickeſt Place eat up and overcome by the wild Twitch, and other Graſs and Weeds: or elſe the Roots are rotted in the Ground; for under a Loamy Surface of about a Foot thick, there is a red Clay that does not agree with this Graſs, being at this time moſt of it gone, notwithſtanding it was careſully dreſſed by its Owner in due Time: However, the third Year he mowed it three Times in one Summer, but afterwards it declined. Yet I cannot ſay but this, like *St. Foyne*, may do better in ſandy Grounds where there is eaſy room for its pikey Roots to grow in; from which I infer, that in ſuch Soils of ſtiff Loams and Clays, its only proper to ſow for three or four Years at moſt, as we do Clover, *&c.* and then it will pay well enough with good Dreſſing by Soot, Lime, or Aſhes, eſpecially if eaten green; but if mown for Hay,

Hay, the Horſes will refuſe a great many of its Leaves. It requires a very fine Tilth, clear of Stones, and then fourteen Pounds ſow an Acre among Barley or Oats, either harrowed in, or ſown afterwards when they are high as the latter End of this or the Month of *May*. But take care of your Cattle, for this Graſs is apt to hove Horſes, Cows, and Sheep —

Laying down plowed Ground to become Meadow.— On this Subject I have had ſeveral Letters from a Gentleman of a conſiderable Eſtate in *Bedfordſhire*, and have anſwered them accordingly. But by reaſon of their Length, and my little room, I ſhall only publiſh the Copy of the firſt, and remark on the reſt, *viz.*

SIR,

I OBSERVE your practical Farmer, where you in Page 55. treat of Rye-Graſs; you adviſe the Upland Hay-Seed to be ſowed upon laying down Land. I deſign in a few Days to ſow a Cloſe of ten Acres with Barley, four Pounds of Clover-Seed, and four Pounds of Trefoil: Now the Favour I beg of you is to let me have your Advice how many Buſhels of Hay-ſeeds I ſhall ſow in theſe ten Acres, and whether with the Barley or a Fortnight after, at the time you put the Clover and Trefoil in. Your Anſwer, as ſoon as you conveniently can, will oblige

Your Friend and Servant,

J. W.

P. S. Some ſay four Buſhels of Hay-Seed to an Acre. And ſome ſay twenty, a very wide Difference. The Ground is a Clay, and bears good Crops of Corn.

IN the firſt Place I am not to determine, which is moſt Profit to keep this arable Ground on, for Corn, or to ſow it with Graſs, becauſe it ſufficeth that it's the

the Pleaſure of the Owner. Or he may be tempted to it by the convenient Situation of the Land to graze as a Home Cloſe, *&c.* otherways if I had ſuch a Field that would bear good Corn, I ſhould think twice before I laid it down once for Graſs; for according to the preſent Improvement of plowed Lands, I ſhould expect to enjoy a Profit in them, when I might go without it in Sward Grounds that are often ſcorch'd and the Graſs burnt up, when a good Crop of Wheat or other Grain will flouriſh and be the better for it. From this Gentleman I had ſeveral Letters to this Purpoſe, in one of which he told me he ſent to the *London* Inns (he living chiefly in Town) and to the Horſe-Guards, to know what Quantity of Hay-Seeds he might buy, but he bought none; being inform'd, that there was a great deal of Marſh coarſe Hay uſed by ſome, that was improper for his Intention. In anſwer to this, I writ him, that Trefoil was a wrong Sort to lay down a Meadow with, by reaſon of its Spread, Cover, and much quicker Growth, than the natural Graſs, and therefore would be apt to kill a great deal of it; and the Rye-Graſs, as I ſaid before, being a coarſe Hay, would neither be fit for Saddle-Horſes, nor Sale: But that the beſt way, in my humble Opinion, was, to ſow it with three Pounds of Clover-Seed, and twenty Buſhels of Hay-Seeds on one Acre (for this laſt can't well be ſown too thick) and ſo with this Proportion for a greater Quantity of Land, and that among Barley, before any other Grain, by Reaſon, for this Crop, the Ground is plowed often, got into a fine Tilth, and well managed, which are three Properties perfectly neceſſary to attend this Work: the Hay-Seeds to be harrowed in with the Barley, and the Clover to be rolled in, a Fortnight, or Three-Weeks after; and then, if the Weather favours, and the Slug is quiet, there is no Danger of a Crop: and as to the Coarſeneſs of the Hay-Seeds, if it was

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my Caſe, that ſhould prove no Barrier to my Project, (tho' better, is better ſtill;) for I think I could eaſily ſupply that Defect with Coal-Aſhes, by ſowing ſixty Buſhels of them on an Acre, the ſecond Year, and bring up wild Honey-ſuckle enough (the beſt Graſs) to furniſh the Ground with Plenty the very ſame Year of ſowing them: Or ſoot both Barley and Graſs-Seeds in this or laſt Month as ſoon as ſown, with about twenty-five Buſhels of this fertilizing Dreſſing. Now, as the Land is inclined to ſward, (as all Clays and ſtiff Loams naturally are) I dare preſume to ſay, ſuch Ground will graze in ſeven Years time and leſs, very well, without ſowing any natural Graſs-Seeds, only artificial ones, as by the following Caſe I ſhall make appear. —— My Home-Cloſe containing four Acres that adjoyns to my Houſe, I ſowed three Years ago with Barley, Clover, and Trefoil, in order to graze it for two Years, and then plow it up again: But this Cloſe that had been under the Plow, time out of Mind, has ſince taken ſo well with Honey-Suckle and natural Graſs, by Means of its own clayey, loamy, graſſy Nature, and the help of Aſhes, that inſtead of ſowing it any more with Corn, I have reſolved to let it lie wholly for a Sward; and tho' this is but the third Summer that it has been laid down, I had a fine plentiful Crop of the old Clover, Trefoil, Honey-Suckle and natural Graſs. I alſo in this Month rolled in three Pounds on an Acre of Clover-Seed, as being accounted ſo great an Improver in this Caſe, that an old Farmer by me does it every Spring, on Ground that he has laid down above theſe twelve Years ſince, and intends to continue the ſame yearly. Another famous Huſbandman in our Neighbourhood ſowed Clover-Seed, and harrowed it with a Buſhed-Hondle, over his Orchard, where, by the drip of the Trees, the Graſs was over-run with Moſs, and it proved very beneficial; for this Seed being very ſmall bodied, inſinu-

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ated itſelf into the Ground, and by being ſhaded by the Moſs, it grew and helped to ſtifle and kill a great deal of it; but theſe and other Managements can't always be regulated to a Certainty, becauſe particular Occaſions call for different Proceedings; accordingly hereafter I intend to make known two Ways of converting plowed Ground into a Meadow, with more Expedition and Profit than any yet ever wrote of, and which has coſt me no little Pains to find out.

Spurry-Seed. — I lately ſowed ſome of this in my Garden for a Tryal, and had for Return a woolly Sort of Vegetable that I am at a Loſs to deſcribe, otherways than by telling you it's ſo much like that poiſonous ſtinking May-weed, that at firſt Sight, I thought it was the ſame. This made me call a Sort of Council of Farmers, who, on Examination, deſpiſed it on account both of Corn and Graſs, as affording neither to any Signification. I bought the Seed at a Seed-ſhop at *London*, and went to another to compare it; they both told me, they had that Year imported it from Abroad, and one, I believe, ſaid right, but the other wrong, becauſe he had juſt before bought a Quantity of the firſt. It's one of the ſmalleſt of Seeds, and ſo much like Purſley-Seed, that it is not eaſily diſtinguiſhed; and therefore, in my Opinion, can't reaſonably be called Corn; and how a Perſon comes off that bought at once three Pounds Worth to ſow in the plowed Field, I know not, but, I preſume, it's moſt, or all of it, loſt Money: So that till they ſell us that Sort that will anſwer better the double Character that has by ſome Authors been given it, I cannot complement them otherways than by ſaying the Seedſman has the greateſt Profit. I received a Letter from a Perſon in the North about this Seed, that coſt me, I think 8*d.* Poſtage; which, I think, is too much to be out of Pocket and give my Labour away too.

Turneps.

TURNEPS.

Late in this Month Turneps have been ſowed in Fields that are partly of a ſandy Nature, notwithſtanding the common Notion that they won't bottle or apple if ſown ſo ſoon, but inſtead thereof will run into ſeedy Heads; but this has been confuted by the Succeſs that has attended ſuch early Sowings. I own, in our Fields, whoſe Staple is Clays or Loams, its improper to begin in this Month, but rather a Fortnight before or after *Midſummer*, in order to ſtand for a Winter Crop; for if they were ſown much ealier in theſe Soils, or in Gravels or Chalks, they would be apt to run ſeedy at the Beginning of Winter, grow hard, ſtringy, and good for little. But where a Crop is to be drawn in the latter End of *July*, or in *Auguſt*, it may anſwer the Intent to ſow the Seed in *May* in any of theſe Soils, and give the Farmer an Opportunity to get the ſame Ground ready to ſow with Wheat at *Michaelmas*. For this Purpoſe there are ſeveral Sorts of Turneps; as the white *Dutch*, the *French*, the Yellow, the Red and Green, Rounds and Tankards, *&c.* of all which the *Dutch* are ſo very early ripe, as to be ready in warm Grounds to pull, in about ten Weeks time, and is a pretty ſweet Turnep, but not ſo fit for Winter Uſe; and as it comes out of *Holland*, as I ſuppoſe, off a ſandy Land, it will not be ſo big the firſt Year, as it will the ſecond, if you uſe the ſame Seed ſaved in our Climate; becauſe our ſtiff Soils eſpecially enlarge them to a greater Degree than the firſt Crop was.

Manuring the Ground, and Sowing of Turneps. — To help the Forwardneſs, Largeneſs, and for ſecuring a Crop of Turneps againſt the Fly, Slug, Drought, and Caterpillar, let your Ground be in a moſt fine Tilth; for nothing loves a hollow clean Earth better than this Root; and then if you have not plowed your Dung in before, do it in this Month, and remember for this Purpoſe twenty Loads are better than

ten or fifteen; for by this efficacious Way, your Dung will mix with the Ground againſt the time you ſow it in *June*, and then cauſe your Turneps to be quickly fit for ſowing, and run away ſo faſt, that the Fly or Slug can't overcome them, nor the Droughts kill them; becauſe, by this Means, they'll obtain ſuch an expeditious ſpreading Head, as will cover and ſhade their Roots againſt this Accident: But in this Caſe your Cart Dung ſhould be very ſhort; for if it is long, it will be apt to clog and hinder the Hough, and ſpoil the Crop in a great Meaſure: However, in lieu of this, there is another Sort of Husbandry performed by the Fold; inſomuch, that it's now become a common Rule with the beſt Farmers that have large Flocks of Sheep, as ſoon as ever they have done folding their Barley-Ground, to begin the like Work on their Fallows for the firſt Time in this Month, and fold for a Crop of Turneps before they do it for Wheat; ſo that there are three ſeveral Cauſes or Seaſons in one Summer for dreſſing the Ground by Sheep, that by all are allowed to be an incomparable Nouriſhment to any Earth they can be folded on. Yet if both theſe have been neglected, or could not be made uſe of in Time, there are ſeveral other Ways to ſupply them, as by Soot, Aſhes, Lime, or folding afterwards. By Soot, that is be ſown to the Quantity of fifteen Buſhels or more on an Acre as ſoon as they appear. By Aſhes of Coal, Wood, Earth, or Lime, forty Buſhels of the firſt, ſixty of the ſecond, eighty of the third and laſt. By the Fold, that may be clapt on immediately after the Turnep Seed is ſown, and continued a Fortnight or more till they are all up, on one Acre, and then another Acre may be ſown and folded on as before, and ſo on for a good while, till a Quantity of Land is thus dreſſed. I knew a Farmer that ſeldom could get a Crop of Turneps

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on his chalky and gravelly Loams, till he uſed this latter Way, by employing the Fold after the Turneps were ſown; for ſuch is the Nature of the Stale, Dung, Tread, and the woolly Bodies of the Sheep, that the Slug, Fly, and Caterpillar are often very much kept off doing their Miſchief here, and therefore ſeldom fails of producing a good Crop. And laſtly, by Lime, that is a good Dreſſing, eſpecially for Clays and Loams, but not ſo good for Sands, Chalks, or Gravels. When the laſt plowing of all for Turneps is done, then put 30 Buſhels on the Ground, and ſlack it either with Water or by the Rains or Dews; and when it is thus ready, ſow it out of a Seed-Cott over the whole Acre, which muſt be immediately followed with ſowing three or four Pounds of Turnep-Seed on the ſame Land, and harrow in all together. But you'll wonder, perhaps, at my directing 3 or 4lb. to be ſowed on an Acre, when one is enough, if all takes; yet was it a Rule of a Farmer that hardly ever miſs'd a Crop of Turneps, to ſow 7lb. on an Acre, and gave ſeven Shillings to have them houghed, which is two Shillings above the common Price; for the thicker they come, the more Trouble it will cauſe the Hougher, it being his Notion that none need fear a Crop of Turneps if they would ſow Seed enough. If the Weather is ſhowery, they commonly appear in a Fortnight or three Weeks; but if altogether dry, it may be five, ſix, or ſeven Weeks, and then they ſeldom anſwer. About a Fortnight or three Weeks after they have made their rough Leaf, it's time to hough them, leſt they burn, turn yellow, and be ſett; but that muſt be done twice, if done to the Purpoſe, and for both which our Houghers have generally five Shillings an Acre. They are worth from 40 to 10*s. per* Acre, to be fed with Sheep, and 3*l.* to be drawn.

Turneps among Oats. — It has been the Practice of one of our diligent Farmers, to ſow Turneps among his Oats or Barley at the ſame time he ſowed them, and this he continued doing two or three Years, ſucceſſively to enjoy them early for his Harveſt Men: But he has now laid that Practice aſide, becauſe there accrued a Damage by their Spread over the Roots of the Corn, and the Tread they cauſed among the Grain in plucking them; and therefore he now follows another Method, by ſowing Turneps on the out-ſide of the Lands next to the Graſs-Baulks for their more convenient gathering them; ſo likewiſe he ſerves his Broad-Beans to enjoy them at that neceſſary Seaſon; but more of Turneps hereafter in other Monthly Books.

OATS.

I will ſuppoſe the black Oats to be ſown in *March*, as the moſt propereſt Month for them; but the white Oat is commonly ſown in this Month, and yet ripens ſooner than the black ones, is very hardy, and will grow almoſt on any Land. This, as well as the black one, is commonly ſown Broad-Caſt on one Plowing, but two is better, becauſe the Ground is thereby brought into a Tilth to ſow Clover, Trefoil, or Rye-Graſs, or all together among them that are either harrowed in with the Oats, or ſown afterwards in *June*, when they are high, as I have already directed; and it is by theſe two Operations of the Plough, that the Honey-Suckle and other Weeds, which are often very deſtructive to this Grain, become extirpated and killed; for this Purpoſe the white Oat exceeds the black, becauſe it will ſhade and ſhelter the young artificial Graſs by its larger Leaf, and higher thicker Stalk. It's alſo of great Uſe to ſow the latter End of this Month, or in *May*, in caſe any of the Sorts of Beans or Peaſe miſſes, as it happened this cold wet Spring, when many Acres of the Peaſe were deſtroy'd by the Slugs, and Extream-

treamities of Weather, that were immediately ſupplied by the ſowing of the white Oat, blue Peaſe, and Thetches in their room, to the Farmer's great Advantage. They weigh heavier, and are preferr'd for their larger Body and white Colour, make indifferent Malt, are excellent for Poultry, and good to fatten Hogs when ſwelled by boiling or ſcalding Water, and now more commonly uſed for Oat-meal than formerly, by reaſon of their great Whiteneſs; but the Farmer thinks the black Oat makes the ſweeteſt Oat-meal. There is alſo another Sort of white Oat, called a *Dutch* Oat, larger than the black, has a plump Kernel, thin Skin, and makes more and better Oat-meal than this: It has a red Stalk, and grows not ſo tall as the black or *Poland* Oat, and, at preſent, is much in Requeſt for making Gruel white and ſweet: We ſow four or five Buſhels on an Acre, and generally receive four Quarters back at Harveſt. In this Month ſome think it good Husbandry to turn Sheep into a Field of Oats, to eat up the Curlock, and the Weeds, which they will do before they hurt the Oat, and here ſome continue them till Midd-*May*, and do a great deal of good; but if you keep them in longer, they'll be apt to bite the Spindle or Stalk of them; and then the Conſequence will be, that at Harveſt there will be ſome ripe and ſome green Oats, tho' I know ſome will keep them in beyond that time; for they ſay if a drop of Rain or Dew will hang on an Oat at *Midſummer*, there may be a good Crop. And by thus deſtroying the Weeds, the Oats have room to grow; but if the Curlock's yellow Flower comes up very thick, there will be but few Oats: And ſuch was the Increaſe of this Weed this Spring among Barley, Peaſe, and Oats, that I queſtion if the like was ever known; for about the later end of *May* ſome Farmers with the Scythe mowed the ſeedy Heads off, that were got above the Oats; others pulled up ſome where it was thin;

others

others with the End of the Pea-Hooks went over a Field ſtriking off the ſeedy Heads which eaſily parted from their Stalks; and check'd their Growth; tho' its the common Opinon that the Ground naturally produces them by means of a Mild Winter, and a Wet cold Spring: But in laſt Month I ſowed the *Scotch* white Oat, the heavieſt of all others, the thineſt skin'd, and now beſt of all for Oat-meal.

Dugdale Wheat.

By this time the red Lamas and pirky Wheats, are thorough dry in the Mow, and apt to grind very ſhort; ſome therefore mix a Buſhel of Dugdale Wheat that is ſomewhat tougher and coarſer, with three of either of them to qualify it. It is a bearded Wheat, yields great Quantities of Flour, reſiſts Blights and Blaſts, by the help of its rough Guards that it ſheds generally in the Field, but its Chaff is good for nothing. It's ſo hardy as to grow in the Northern Parts of *England*, where others will not. In *Huntingtonſhire* they call it *Dunever-Wheat*, and in *Eſſex*, *Bold-Rivet*. It ſeldom or never ſmuts; but the Flour feels like ſmall Sand, harſh and heavy. It muſt not be cut till the Beards begin to fall off, and it's ſeen to lie thick on the Ground. It is late ripe, and with many is the laſt Thing they do in Harveſt. It won't ſhed its Seed like other Wheat, has a crooked Kernel with a brown Speck at the end of it, and makes tolerable good Malt.

Damaged Wheat. — If Wheat has taken too much Wet in the Field, that it has ſprouted or grown, uſe Allum in the kneading it, and by its Aſtringent Quality, it will keep it from running or ſpreading in the Oven, or being heavy.

WEEDS.

And firſt the dunny Leaves or Coltsfoot, is large and broad, of a very pernicious Conſequence to both Corn and Graſs, eſpecially in our flat Loams; for here

here they get ſuch Footing, that many deſpair of ever deſtroying them; therefore to kill this, the great Hog-weed, Cats-tail, wild Parſnip, Bryars, and many more of the weedy Army, affix a Fin of Iron to the ſide of the Share of the Wheel-Plough, or a Dove-Tail Point on the Foot-Plough, and you may, by this Means, cut and tear moſt of them up; for certainly the Plough, if managed right, is the beſt Weeder; but ſome prefer the Mattock, eſpecially in this and the next Month when they have a great Opportunity with two, three, or four Men to dig them up, and think this the beſt way, by reaſon when a Root is cut in two, it may be taken and carried away off the Land; whereas, in Plowing, the next Thorough covers it, and many of the Pieces grow and multiply the more, after the Manner of Horſe-Raddiſh, or Potatoe; therefore when plowing with a Fin is put in Execution, let a Perſon follow and gather the Bits of ſuch Roots at the Plough cuts or breaks off, to be carried intirely from off the Land. And tho' ſuch Work is at firſt ſomewhat chargeable, yet I never knew but that it anſwered as well as any one piece of Husbandry beſides; and this Month, in particular, is the beſt time of all the Year to begin this Operation, which ſhould be ſallowed up alſo at each Stirree-Time. But the Camock, Honey-Suckle, and ſuch as are of the ſtringy Tribe, will ſuffer ſtraining, and give way to the Plough Share, for which Reaſon the Mattock is here of the moſt Service to ruin their Propagation, provided the Strings ſo dug are taken away.

Of Fowls.

Buſtard. — This noble large brown coloured Fowl, is an *Engliſh* Bird, and by ſome called the *Wild-Turkey*, that lay their Eggs in this Month on large Commons, Heaths, Fens, Moors, Downs, Plains, and among Rye, where, by diligent Search, they may be poſſibly found, and the young ones taken, which run

run as ſoon as hatch'd, but may be catched by a nimble Foot or Horſeman; for the old ones are now and then ſurprized by Gunners, on account of their great Difficulty of riſing and taking Wing, tho' they naturally are ſo extremely ſhy, as oblige ſome to uſe the Cart and Horſe to carry and ſhelter the Fowler, as is often done about *Newmarket-Heath*, &c. One of theſe Buſtards I once ſaw a Poulterer pull in *Leadenhall-ſtreet*, that he told me was valued at 15*s.* for it's extraordinary white, and much Fleſh. If their Eggs could be got, and ſet under Turkeys, it would be a vaſt Improvement; or if the young Buſtards were catch'd and brought up tame, it would be a great Benefit to the Farmer, by reaſon of its Delicacy, Largeneſs, and Hardineſs, and for which Omiſſion our *Engliſh*, in my Opinion, are greatly to blame; and when they have them, they may croſs the Strain, as they have already done in *Virginia*, and ſent them over here; ſo that at this Time there are many of the half Breed in Parks, Woods, and Fields, that take the Trees like a Pheaſant, and yet not ſtray much, but are lock'd up every Night, and brought home; but theſe don't come up to the true Buſtard for the Farmer's Service, becauſe they are too tender after the Nature of the Turkey, many of them dying when young, notwithſtanding no Coſt nor Care is wanting. Whereas the Buſtard being partly a Fen Bird, and partly a hilly Bird, muſt conſequently be very hardy when young; and then the Trouble and Danger that would attend our *Engliſh* Turkeys that are commonly kept by the great Farmer would be avoided, by reaſon the young of theſe would ſhift almoſt directly, and by being pinnion'd, would be of vaſt Service to him for driving into his Stubbles after Harveſt, and near faten on the ſcattered Corn, that the Rooks, Crows, Jays, Magpies, &c. yearly carry away. I am told, there was a Buſtard ſeen at Lord *Oxford's*, that weigh'd thirty-one Pounds Feathers and Guts and

and all, and are ſo rare a Novelty in the Seaſon, at *Newmarket*, that ſome have given twenty-five Shillings for one. But if this Bird was caponiz'd, it muſt be large indeed, and which may be performed in *September*; ſo likewiſe they may be pinion'd when young, as many Pheaſants are in *Caſhiobury-Park*, by *Watford*, for their greater Safety near Home. There are many of them in *Cambridgeſhire*, *Wiltſhire*, *Norfolk*, and ſome other open Countries. And ſo deſirous I was to improve this Bird, that I offered *7s. 6d.* apiece for a couple of young ones this preſent Seaſon to a Perſon at *Newmarket*, but could not obtain any.

Curlew. —— Is a ſort of Fowl that comes at the latter end of *March*, or the beginning of this Month, into the Chiltern or dry Countries to breed, and lay their Eggs in plowed Grounds, ſo ſubtly, that tho' ſeveral to my Knowledge have attempted to find them, yet have they loſt their Labour; becauſe like a Hare they will ſit in a Thorough, and being of a dark greyiſh Colour, are not eaſily diſtinguiſhed from that of Stones and Earth; and the more on account of the old one's running and ſhifting like a Partridge, as well as flying in deceitful Shews, on purpoſe to allure the Searcher from the right Place, tho' their ſlow Volatility holds but a ſhort Way. yet they can fly ſwift, and to a good Diſtance: Their young ones alſo like a Partridge and Pheaſant run with the Shell on their Backs; but are ſometimes taken, as were two lately at *Dagnal* in *Bucks*, about a Mile and a half from me, which encouraged the Captor to bring them up in his Garden tame: Accordingly they went on well, till the old ones found them out, which commonly ſet out in the Evening to fly in the Night, and by their curlewing noiſy Note ſo diſturb'd the Repoſe of the Man and the Neighbourhood, that he was glad to get rid of them. They lay two or three ſpeckled Eggs at a time, are delicate

Meat, and feed on Grain, Summer-Turneps, Slugs, *&c.* but in Winter retire, it's thought, to the Fens, and other watry Places. They are pleaſant and profitable, in Gardens that have not Goosberries, Currans, Strawberries, and ſuch like Fruits; and may be taken in theſe Parts any Summer, if the young ones are diligently ſought after in the chalky gravelly Grounds about *Dagnal* aforeſaid.

Turkey. —Is a noble Fowl, and has encouraged many to breed them for the ſake of their Largeneſs, good Fleſh, and what is beſt of all, to the Farmer, they are a Crown Price about *Chriſtmas*: If they are fed well with Horſe-Beans, or other warm Meat, they will lay in *January* every other Day, when they muſt be watch'd; for theſe Fowls are very apt to roam, and lay in diſtant Hedges and other Places; when ſhe has laid out her Litter, make a large Neſt with Wheat-Straw three Foot high, to allow for the Preſſure of her weildy Body, and ſet her with thirteen Eggs, which ſhe will cover with ſo much Cloſeneſs, that obliges ſome to take her off by Force every other Day throughout the Sitting to feed her, and in the mean while turn her Eggs till they are chipp'd, and that will be in a Month's Time. As ſoon as they are hatched, give to each young Turkey a pepper Corn in a little Milk to warm their Stomachs, and bring on an Appetite; then with ſome white crumm'd Bread, boil'd in Milk and cool'd, feed them, by ſetting it full before them for their pecking it up the firſt Week; at the ſame time allowing them Water, wherein a little chopp'd Fennel is infuſed. The next Meal is Cheeſe, and made every Day, or every other Day, that muſt be broken ſmall, and given alone or mixed with wetted Pollard and ſome chopp'd Fennel; and this ſome will give them two Months together with ſcatter'd Barley or Oats between, till they graze and worm Abroad: Others, at firſt, will boill rotten or other Eggs hard,

and

and chop them with Clivers or Wormwood, and afterwards feed them with Cheeſe-Curd and Wormwood to a great Improvement. When they are a Week or two old, bring them out, and put the old one under a large Pen or Coop in the warm part of the Day, with a Sack over it to ſecure them from Rains and Miſts, that are ſo diſagreeable to the young ones as to kill ſome now and then; and this ſhould be continued a Fortnight or three Weeks, till they go looſe abroad. They are Fowls that won't ſtray very far, nor fly over Hedges, but are very tender of their Young, and commonly are broody a ſecond Time in *Auguſt*; which tempts ſome to ſet her with 20 Hen Eggs, that ſhe will hatch and bring up with a great deal of Care. About the Beginning of *December* they cram them with Barley-Meal, mix'd with Water, and made into Paſte, giving each Turkey about ten Pieces at a Time, dipp'd in Milk or Broth only every Morning for three Weeks or a Month together, letting them walk the reſt of the Day at Pleaſure; for Confinement does not agree with this Fowl, eſpecially where Beech-Maſt may be come at in Plenty; they will fat alone on this Food to a great Degree, as was proved on *Gaddeſden Green*, where many Beech Trees grow, laſt Seaſon 1734. off of which Place one was directly killed, and eat as ſweet as ever was known by ſome good Judges. Beſides which there is another Profit to be made of the Turkey, and that is, by driving them to the Stubbles immediately after the Corn is got in, and they will act their Part ſo well as to get almoſt fat, with what otherways the Rooks, Crows, *&c.* would carry away, and then at Night will ſuffer themſelves to be drove home by a Boy like a Herd of Swine; and when they have done Stubbling, and you have a Mind to add to their Bulk and Fat, cut them in the very ſame Manner I ſhall ſhew a Dunghill Cock is done to be made a Capon, as it was performed at

my Houſe by an Artiſt in this way. Others are ſo careful of their young Turkeys, that they'll keep them in an Out-houſe or Barn for the firſt Month from the Sting of Nettles, and the Power of cold Weather, which are often fatal to them; and alſo from eating Worms, Snails, Slugs, and other Inſects that ſometimes ſcour them to Death; in lieu of which they ſhould be allowed daily a freſh Turf of Graſs; then at the End of that time they ſet the old one out in a Pen one Hour at Noon, the next time two, and ſo increaſe till they can ſhift for themſelves. Their ſmaller Feathers will mix well with Hen Feathers for Beds; and one Author ſays, the white Turkey's Fleſh is preferable to the black Sort, and that the Turkey-Cock will ſit on 20 or more Eggs and bring up the young ones.

Geeſe. — Theſe are profitable Fowls where there is a good Common and River in the Adjacency, as being the moſt natural Place for the Gooſe, where it can be furniſhed with proper Food, as Water Creſſes, Brook-Lime, and other aqueous Vegetables; and alſo with young Frogs, Tadpoles, Ticklebacks, Slugs, Snails, and other Inſects. They ſeldom bring up above one Brood a Year, but are ſometimes by Improvements encreaſed to two, as thus: When the Houſe-Dame can collect Number five, ſhe puts them under a Sitting-Dunghill Pen, and if ſhe has not one of her own, often hires at one Shilling each; who will hatch them in a Month, which is a Week beyond the Hen's natural Time, and afterwards keep them Company as well as ſhe can, till they are ſold for three, four, or five Shillings a-piece for a green Gooſe. The next Brood is expected from the Gooſe herſelf when ſhe has laid out her Litter of Eggs. Or if ſhe lays not enough, then the Deficiency muſt be made up with Supernumerary Eggs of others, if they can be got; if not, put the Gooſe by her Sitting, and ſet them under Hens alſo:

How-

However, if there can be got eleven, it will do, tho' the full Number is fifteen Eggs; then make a Neſt with Wheat-Straw ſomewhat high from the Ground in a dry Place, and ſet the Gooſe when ſhe is broody, and on that Place where ſhe laid her firſt Eggs, there ſhe commonly ſits; for which Reaſon, ſhe ſhould be carefully obſerv'd for the firſt time in the Month of *January* or *February*, tho', it's ſaid, it's a good Gooſe that lays by *Candlemas-Day*; and when her Eggs are put into the Neſt, ſhe will rattle and turn them to a ſurprize to lay them after her Mind: When this is done, ſhe will pull her Down, and lay about the out-ſide of them, as well to keep them warm, as to have in a Readineſs to cover them every time ſhe goes off to feed, and carefully uncovers them at her Return. At the Chipping of an Egg, take it out, dip it in Water, and put it directly under the Gooſe again; it will ſoften the Shell, and give an eaſy Paſſage out to the Goſling; then have in Readineſs Barley half ground, or Raſpings of Cruſts of Bread ſteep'd and boil'd in Milk, Clivers, and Lettice, or Pollard wetted in cold Water, for Water is almoſt half their Meat both now and at fatting time. Or in Caſe the Clivers are not ready, then get a Turf of Graſs; but ſome ſow Wheat, on Purpoſe that a few ſquare Poles of it may be fit to feed them at that Seaſon of the Year, in ſmall freſh green Parcels at a time. Or get the *Dutch* or other Lettice ready, for this they greatly love, and it will nouriſh the young ones very much. Water Graſſes alſo put into a Pan, will imploy their Fiſhing. Now there are two Ways of managing young ones: Thoſe that are to be ſold early, are to be kept from the Common or Moor, and only ſuffered to go into an Orchard in the warm part of the Day, now and then at firſt, and oftener afterwards till ſold. But if they are bred for ſtubbling, then they may go with the Gooſe at Diſcretion. I ſhall illuſtrate this by recounting

counting the Management of an old Dame that bred a great many at *Boxmoor*, near *Hempſtead* in *Hertfordſhire*. —— A Gooſe ſet with thirteen Eggs, had thirteen Goſlings; at three Weeks End ſhe began to lay again, and laid eight Eggs, which were put under two hired Dunghill Hens: In a few Days after ſhe laid again, and continued ſo doing till ſhe laid ſeven Eggs, which the Dame put under the two Hens, and took the eight from them, and put under the Gooſe; but five of them proved rotten, and the two Hens had only two Goſlings, which were put to the eight the Gooſe hatched, and ſo made up a Brood of Ten for the Stubble; which are commonly bought up by the Farmers as ſoon as their Harveſt is Home at about 11*d.* a-piece, and by them kept in their Corn-Stubble till *Michaelmas* and after, when they ſell them to the Higlers ſometimes for half a Crown a-piece, or fat them themſelves for three Shillings, or three Shillings and Six-pence each. They'll fat on wet or dry Oats, which is the common Way, and that in a Fortnight or three Weeks, in a confined Out-houſe with a little Gravel always by them; but Pollard and Water is better: Or if in Stubbles, give them a few Nights Oats or Barley when they come Home, ſoak'd in Water and they'll fat. But to fat extraordinary, ſhut them in a darkiſh Place, out of the Noiſe of others, and feed them with broken Barley or Buck-Wheat, or dry'd Figgs bruiſed, with a Pan of Water and Gravel by them. Or ſow her up in a Linnen-Cloth, with only her Head and Neck out, and hang her in a dark Place, ſtopping her Ears with Peaſe, with Water and Gravel continually in her Reach, and cram her with Paſte made of Barley Meal or ground Malt ſixteen Days together three Times a-day, and this is ſaid to enlarge their Livers very much. Others ſay to fat them with Malt and Bran, or ground Malt and Wheat Flower mix'd together and made into a Pap. Others will cram them with

with dry'd Figgs, ſtampt into a tender Paſte, and it will fat them in 14 Days. — A Gooſe of a Year old brings Weak young ones, and late, and its reckoned ten Years before they are at beſt, for laying and bringing up Goſlings. — The earlieſt young ones are commonly ſent to *London* in *March* at ſeven Shillings each, called Squabs; others about a Month old, have been ſold at four or five Shillings each; but the late ones in *April* or *May*, are ſometimes ſold in the Markets for Ten-pence and a Shilling a piece. — In the Summer when the long Bennet Graſs is up, the young ones are apt to run after them, till they are feint and their Wings hang; but to preſerve them againſt this, and keep them in Health, pull their Blood quils away from under the Wings, elſe theſe often draw the Blood out of their Bodies till they die. — To make them lay forward, ſome begin to meat them at *All-Hallontide* — while the Gooſe is fatting ſome will give it Lettice, Clivers, *&c.* — Mark the Eggs you lay by, that each Gooſe may ſit on her own, for ſome won't ſit on others. — They will not pay without grazing on a Common, Moor, Heath, or Fen, and have a River, Pond, or other Water at Pleaſure. — If you buy in young ones for a Stock, get them out of one Flock to prevent Miſchief. — They are not fit to go among green Corn, or in Meadows or other Incloſures; becauſe they'll make Pathways with their broad Feet, and ſpoil the Grain with their Mouths, and ſtain all with their Dung to that degree, that no Beaſt loves to feed after them. — They require little Trouble and Charge to breed and fat; for even with what they get abroad, they will hatch in this Month, and want only Meat for a Month afterwards till Bennet time; and then they muſt have Oats or other Meat at Night to ſtrengthen them, and that only while that deſtructive Graſs laſts. — The prolifick Eggs are fully known in a Fortnight's Time by their inſide cloudy Thickneſs,

and

and a blackiſh Ring that appears at the broad outſide End; but the naughty ones will ſhow clear on holding up, and theſe muſt be taken out of the Neſt and had to Market. — A Gooſe ſits thirty Days in cold Weather, and twenty-ſeven or twenty-eight in warmer; and as ſoon as hatched, immediately dip the Bill into Water, and keep them the firſt Week within Doors, if the Weather is cold, to prevent the Cramp. — Some keep them no longer, than four Years; others keep them many, and allow one Gander to four Geeſe. — The old ones ſhed their Quills in *May*, and will loſe them if they are not pull'd away in that Month. One Gooſe will yield ten or twelve Second Quills, and about half as many Pinions. — Deſtroy Henbane if any grows near your Houſe; for this will poiſon and kill both theſe and the other Fowls. — Three old Geeſe will pull one Pound of Feathers at *Chriſtmas*, provided you ſtrip the large ſort of Quills.

The *Hertfordſhire Double-Plough.*

THIS tranſcendant Inſtrument I firſt publiſhed in *May* 1733. that was invented and made but a few Months before, and now hath obtained ſuch a Reputation, as invites the Farmers more and more to come into the Uſe of it: Altho' in the Beginning (as many other new Things do) it met with Numbers of ſpeculative Opponents, who, without Tryal, condemn'd it as of no Service; till an Accident altered the Caſe as follows, *viz.* A great Farmer near me had ſollicited ſeveral others to give him a Day's Plowing, and ſet him in a Forwardneſs of Sowing, and among the reſt this Double-Plough appeared in the Field to the Wonder of all there: However, they proceeded to work; and finding this plowed almoſt as much again as any of the reſt, it ſo incenſed them, that they threatened its Deſtruction. Upon this, preſent Care was taken to lock it up, and ſaved it. In a little time after, one or two other Farmers had

it,

it, and then it ſoon got footing among many of the beſt of Husbandmen, who now ſay they never will be without it as long as they live, for its excellent Uſes in plowing Ground for Wheat, Barley, Peaſe, Beans, Thetches, Oats, Turneps, *&c.* The Broad-Land Double-Fallow-Plough turns two Thoroughs at once of about twenty-one Inches wide; when the Single common Fallow-Plough does only one about thirteen Inches broad. The Stitch Double-Plough alſo turns two Thoroughs at once of eighteen Inches Breadth; but now both theſe are ſupplied by one Double-Plough, that is ſo contrived, as to be made Broader or Narrower, at the Diſcretion of the Ploughman. In this Month for the laſt plowing, either of Barley, Turneps, or Peaſe, it will plow three Acres a-Day in looſe fine Earth, which is of extraordinary Service, not only on account of its Expedition, but likewiſe for making ſmall Thoroughs that fine the Earth much better and ſooner than the Single-Plough, and thereby gives the Owner an Opportunity to ſow his firſt Caſt of Barley, or Peaſe on the rough Ground, and the other half after once harrowing, which will ſecure half the Seed very much againſt the danger of Droughts. I know a great Farmer that has in this Month fallowed a gravelly Loam with the Double-Plough, and is of the like Service in chalky Loams and Sands. But where the Ground abounds with large Stones, or that a Clay is got very dry and unplowed before, or that the Soil is a hard hurlucky Chalk, then I own it is not ſo proper. Yet in ſeveral other Soils it's become almoſt in ſole Uſe. For with it, ſome plow their Fallow-Land, and ſow all their Wheat with it both in Stitches and Broad-Lands; and likewiſe, as I ſaid before, all their Oats, Barley, Thetches, and Turneps. But in Stitch-Work, this in particular excels, becauſe it does that at twice drawing through, which a ſingle one muſt be four times doing; on which

Account it diſpatches the ſowing of Wheat, Peaſe, Beans, and Thetches in near half the Time, and better than the ſingle Stitch-Plough can, To this I ſhall add the Character of the Wheel-Double-Plough given it by one of our beſt Farmers in theſe Parts, *viz.* Firſt, it frequently happens that an Acre of Ground more or leſs, is ſowed with Wheat, when the Ridges and Sleevings of the Stitches are only made with the Wheel-Single-Plough; and before they can be hented up, the Rains fall, and in that Condition the Ploughman is obliged to go home, and leave the Grain expoſed to the Fowls, who eat up a great deal of it for a Week and more together; nay, ſometimes a Crop is much damaged, if not loſt, by this very Means. Whereas the Double-Plow finiſhes its Work as it goes, and ſo it prevents this Evil intirely. Secondly, in making a Wheat, Pea, or Bean Stitch with the Double-Plough, the ſleeving Thorough keeps up the Ridge-Thorough better than the Single-Plough can; becauſe the Horſes in the Single-Plough generally tread it down as they go. But in the Double one the Hind-Share comes on ſo quick after the Fore-Share, as keeps the Ridge-Thorough up more firm. Thirdly, it's preferable to the Single Plough for Barley Ground; becauſe the Narrow-Double-Plough makes little Thoroughs in Broad-Land-Earths that are light and looſe, and therewith a good Quantity of Ground may be daily ſowed, more almoſt by half than the Single one can, which is a Convenience of great Importance, as all Farmers muſt be ſenſible of, if they ſpeak impartially, and particularly, on account of ſowing the ſteep'd Barley that hereby is more out of Danger of ſpoiling. Fourthly, in Turnep-Ground this Double-Plough when the Land is in a fine Tilth, will go over a great deal at one Journey, which gives a large Opportunity to ſow ſeveral Pounds in one Day, of this Seed while the Land is freſh. Fifthly, It plows

Wheat-

Wheat-Stitches in *November* into Stitches again at two Operations, to looſen and ſweeten the Ground for ſowing of Peaſe or Beans in the ſame Form in *February* or *March*, or in this manner to get the Ground into a fine Tilth for Barley, or Turneps. Sixthly, in *January* or Beginning of *February*, ſome of our Farmers plow their Oat or Pea-Stubbles up into Stitches, in order to get the Earth into a fine Tilth for ſowing of Turneps in *June* or *July*, which this Double-Plough is very ſerviceable for. But I know it is objected by ſome, that two Single-Ploughs with only two Horſes each will do as much. Now admit of this, there is then the Difference of a Man and a Boy, *&c.* which, in my Opinion, is conſiderable; beſides it's viſible, the Weight of the ſecond Share and Coulter, *&c.* does not require the ſame Strength of Horſes as is equivalent to the Weight and Luggage of an intire Single-Plough and its Carriage; becauſe the whole Weight of ſome Single-Ploughs is as heavy as the whole Double-Plough within ten or fifteen Pounds; for the Wheel Carriage, Coulters, Ground Riſe, and Shares of both are ſometimes of equal Weight; ſo that the Difference lies in the Beam being a Foot longer, and a very little thicker in the Double-Plough, than the ſingle One, and a broad Board, a few Hooks, and ſome ſmall Pieces of Wood more in one than the other. It's true the Hind-Plow lies more back than a ſingle one, which occaſions alſo ſomewhat a greater Draught to the Horſes; but then as four, five, or ſix are uſed to do it, I think there is a vaſt Advantage to the Farmer more in one than the other, in reſpect of Time, Charge and Labour, three of the moſt important Articles in Husbandry. And therefore a certain Lord, (famous for his Skill in Agriculture) told me that this Plough could never have been invented and publiſhed in a better time; when by the Cheapneſs of Grain, *&c.* the Farmer ſtood in more need of Help,

to ſave Charges, than ever was known. We often feed our Sheep on the Sprouts of Turneps till his Month, when only with one Plowing performed by the Double-Plough, they have harrowed in four Buſhels of dry Barley-Seed on an Acre. In this Caſe likewiſe this Inſtrument does ſingular Service, as I have already hinted. But there is a great deal of Art in making them truly Serviceable, for ſeveral have been made to little Purpoſe: Therefore if any Gentleman, or others think fit to ſend a Letter to me, I will furniſh them to *London* to their Carrier (or elſewhere) at 4*d*. ½. *per* Pound the Iron work, and the Wood work at the neat Price every common Farmer pays. As for my Trouble I will leave it to their Generoſity. I ſhall only add one Obſervation more, and that is: On the 31ſt of *March* a ſingle and Double Plough worked in one Field at one and the ſame Time in a ſtiff Loam, where Turneps had been juſt eaten off. The Poſture of the Ground ſhewed the Difference; for that which was turned up by the Double One, lay in narrow even Thoroughs; but the Part plowed by the Single one, turned up large, high, and uneven. Now by this it will appear to any Farmer of Judgment, that the ſmall Thoroughs require leſs harrowing, than the great ones, and will beſides receive and cover the Barley much ſooner and better, to the great Increaſe of the Crop.

Cherry *Trees.*

THESE are in full Bloom generally about the Beginning of this Month, I mean Standards, which ſhould every Year in this Mouth have a Knife's Point run ſoftly down the outward Bark, but not the inner; for then they'll be apt to ſpew out a Gum that often injures, if not kills them. It will help to keep off Moſs, and open the hoop'd Bark, that otherways would bind and hinder this Tree's Growth in Bulk to a great Degree. Alſo in wet Weather, or immediately

ately after ſcrape the Bark of this and all other Standard Fruit-Trees with the back of a Knife, or rubb them with a Hair Cloth to keep it thin and looſe; in order to make it more capable of receiving the nutricious Influences of the Sun, Air, Dews, and Rains, and thereby cauſe ſuch a Tree to live in a juvenile State many Years longer than if it was neglected. It is what has been my Practice at Times among ſome of my Hundreds of Trees that I have now growing, part on the Graſs-Baulks of my plowed Fields, others in Hedges, others in Meadows, that were budded with Kerroons, May-Dukes, Hearts, Orleans. Carnation, Flemiſh, and that excellent Purple Sort, reckoned by ſome to be a good Bearer, a fine eating Cherry, and ſo big as to weigh down a Guinea, which has given it the Name of a Pound Cherry.

To *Fertilize Fruit Trees.*

WHEN the Apple, Pear, Walnut, Filbeard, (but not the Cherry) and other Sorts are in Bloom, take good rotten Horſe-Dung, or new made Hoggſ-dung, and lay it about a Foot thick, and three or four Feet wide, upon the Roots of Trees without breaking any of the Surface. And the ſucceeding Rains will waſh the nitrous ſulphureous Quality of the Dung in upon them, and cauſe a ſwift Growth in both Fruit and Wood, furniſh the Tree with young Branches for next Year's Bearing, and make it a large one in a few Years, if this is obſerved to be done once in two or three Years. It will alſo enable the Bloſſom and Fruit to withſtand Blights, keep off Droughts from the Roots, and retain the ſeaſonable Rains for a long Time. On the top of this may be alſo laid the Excrement of Pidgeons, Hens, or Rabbits, that will be an extraordinary Help, and rather better, than if laid alone on the bare Surface of the Earth; becauſe theſe ſort are generally made without Straw, and therefore have not ſuch a hollow ſpungy Sub-

ſtance,

ſtance, as looſe Horſe or Hogs-dung to ſhade and ſhelter the Trees Roots from the too powerful Influences of the Sun's Heat, that ſometimes deſtroy as well as often nouriſh the fibrous Roots of the young Trees; and if to all theſe there were added a Layer of ſix or more furzen Faggots (which we buy on our Commons for Six-pence a Score) round about the bottom of the Tree, and carried up in a pyramidical Form cloſe to the Trees Body, and up to its Head, it would throughout the Summer ſhelter all but the Head againſt the ſiccious Quality of the Air, and the potent Heat of the Solar Influence; for it's certain, that Shade communicates a growing Aſſiſtance to all Trees in Summer, as is plain from the haſty Growth of Copſe-wood, whoſe Roots are greater Strangers to Droughts, than thoſe more expoſed; ſo here the Cover of the Dung and Furze, not only ſhades, but preſerves the Breath or Spirit of the Earth from being exhaled and evaporated; and thus conſequently adminiſters ſuch its growing Quality to the Trees Roots; as is plain from the Richneſs of all thoſe Earths that lie under Cover. And the Reaſon, why ſuch Aſſiſtance is not to be given a Standard Tree in the Spring before this Month, is, becauſe the Dung would then cauſe the Bloom to come out too ſoon, and meet the cold Winds and Froſts that often happen at that Time. But the ſame Application ſhould not be laid to the Roots of the Cherry Tree; becauſe this Tree in particular, diſagrees with a thick Cover of any Dung; and therefore about and on the Top of his Roots, ſtrew ſome neat Pidgeons Dung two Inches thick at leaſt, or in like manner Hens or Rabbits Dung, and if you think fit, ſhelter with furzen Faggots. —— Another way that I practiſe, is, by Nitre-Liquor that remain'd after all my Barley was ſteeped. This I put on the Roots of my Vines, and Fruit Trees, as far as it would go, and it brought on their Growth very

very expeditiouſly; and if any Perſon will, throughout the Summer, put about a Quart of the ſame about a young Tree's Roots once or twice a Week, I dare preſume to ſay ſuch a Tree will grow near half as faſt again, as one done nothing to, provided it's one whoſe Body exceeds not four Inches Diameter. This was proved by applying it to the Root of a Vine, which ran up ſix Foot high that Summer, as I was credibly inform'd by a Gentleman of Reputation. But my own new invented way of fertilizing both Fruit and Timber Trees, I ſhall poſtpone till next Month. But for Timber-Trees, I muſt praiſe Mr. *Batty Langley*'s Book, ſold by *Clay* and *Brown*, at the *Bible* and *Swan* without *Temple Bar*, entitled, *A ſure Way to improve Eſtates*,

Hedging.

It is a general Notion that Hedging may be performed till *May Day*, and it is ſaid, there is a Statute for allowing a Tenant to do it; but, in my Opinion, no Body ought to be later than the firſt Week in this Month that would be ſafe in this Work; for preſently after that time, in a warm forward Spring, the Sap becomes thin, ſo as to run and box, as we call it; that is, by the Firmneſs of the Bark, will ſeparate from the Body of the Wood, when it is cut and bent down to lie as a Plaiſh in the Hedge, and then ſuch a Hedge is either crippled or kill'd; tho' I own that an old Hedge is beſt late made, but not when the Bark parts. The Thorn, it's true, is the hardeſt of all others, and will often bear plaiſhing, even till *May Day*. The Horn Beam is thought to be the next hardieſt Plant in a Hedge that does not eaſily part with its Bark, and next the Aſp, *&c* always taking care that the Workman cuts the Stumps ſloping, as low as he can well do; for high Stumps are often the Deſtruction of a Hedge in Time; nor will they branch out and grow ſtrong, like one lower

cut:

cut. But of this I ſhall enlarge in my other Books.

Pickled *Pork.*

THIS moſt convenient excellent Meat is now become of prodigious Service both by Sea and Land, and about forty Years ago began to be in common uſe in the County of *Kent*, ſince which it has got ſo general, as almoſt to ſupplant Bacon, eſpecially with the Farmer, who is certainly an ill Husband, if he does not get a Stock of this for all the Year; becauſe it's not only a wholeſome Food, but ſaves Labour, Time, and Charge of ſending to Diſtances in many Places, to buy Butchers Meet; and by it's natural and ſaltiſh Taſte, furthers the Conſumption of Flour, Apples, Herbs, and Roots; which being the Farmer's own Produce, gives him an Opportunity of enjoying all in the cheapeſt manner, by affording a ſubſtantial, variable, and pleaſant wholeſome Food, either directly from the Pickle, or in Pieces taken out and dried in the Chimney Corner a few Days, that ſupplies both Houſe and Field; for in many Places the Plough-man and his Boy, will carry ſome of this Pork, and cold Apple-Dumplings with them, particularly in *Kent*, and ſerves them, as Cheeſe and Bread does ours in *Hertfordſhire*. But before I proceed farther on this Article, I ſhall relate a Matter of Fact, as it happened between a Batchelor Farmer, and his Plough-man, on account of this Meat. The Servant was hired at ten Pounds a Year, and the Privilege, as I remember, of keeping three or four Sheep; however, he did not like his Place, becauſe he was fed with Pickled Pork three Months together, and a louſy Bed into the Bargain; which made the Fellow take out a Warrant for his Maſter from *Edmund Rouſe*, Eſq; then Governor of *Upper Caſtle* near *Rocheſter*, who, I ſaw, bind him over to *Maidſtone* Seſſions to anſwer for the ſame. Now I ſhall make it appear, that this Man of *Kent* was not ſo crafty as another

another Farmer I know that lives more Northward; who to make his Servants live chiefly on Pickled Pork, and fat Bacon, would ſo contrive it, as to ſit down with them each Breakfaſt and Dinner; and when they offered to complain of their conſtant Diet, he replied, — Sure, I hope, you don't find Fault, and I eat the ſame myſelf. —But, in Truth, it was not at all ſo, for here he acted the Gaſcoon, by only nibbling a little in their Company; and when they were gone out, both he and his Wife would regale themſelves on ſome choice Bit: Nor would he ſuffer them to gather a Turnep to boil with it, tho' they grew in an adjacent Field, leſt the Antiſcorbutick Vegetable ſhould prove a Sauce, and ſo occaſion a greater Conſumption of his dainty-Fare. — All which is to explain, that this Pickle-Pork, by its profitable Ends and Purpoſes, ſerves the Farmer's Intereſt beyond all other Viands whatſoever, even Bacon itſelf, by Reaſon there is a conſiderable Waſte often times in that, either by the Niceneſs or Malice of its Feeders, and then the Rhine or ruſty Part is often thrown away; when Pickle-Pork eſcapes that Waſte, as being free of thoſe Objections. For as many Farmers of late have been raiſed in their Rents, it has brought them under a Neceſſity to invent and ſquare their Living to their Circumſtances, and the more for meeting of late Years with low Prices for their Grain and other goods at Market; and therefore are obliged to make the moſt of every Thing they deal in; and among the reſt, the Servants were brought under a long Repetition of the Pork Article, that by this Time I believe has got all over *Britain*, and now carried on by ſome of the frugal Farmers moſt part of the Year; but then there muſt be a great deal of Care uſed to have it right good.— In caſe you kill your Swine out of the Winter Months, and the Weather is warm, hang him up in a Cellar; and if there is danger of the Fly, put o-

ver him a Linnen Gloth wetted; the next Evening cut him out; and after the Spare-Ribs, and the reſt of the bony Pieces are taken away, ſpread a little Salt on a Bench or Table, and lay thereon the fleſhy Pieces that are to be kept as Pickled-Pork, and ſtrew ſome Salt on all the Top of them. Thus let it lie a Night and a Day, or more, to drain, and iſſue out all the bloody Gravy, that would otherways cauſe it to ſlime, corrupt, and ſtink. Then beat two Pennyworth of Salt-petre to a Powder, and mix it with half a Buſhel of common Salt; with which ſalt your Pork Piece by Piece, and lay it in the Tub or Pot as cloſe as you can. This Quantity is ſufficient for one that weighs twenty Stone; and if it is thus managed, you may kill them later than this Month. Somewhat like this, is the way now uſed for preſerving Beef, killed in the Summer for the Ships, as an Author obſerves; and then they kill the Ox this Evening, and hang him up till the next, when they cut him out, and immediately caſt the Pieces into an open Cask or Tub of Brine, where after leſs than four Minutes Soaking, they take and ſalt them down in Casks that are fill'd up with ſtrong Pickle: For by thus Soaking the Pieces firſt in Brine, the bloody Juices are over-come, and the Fleſh thereby fitted to receive the Salt, which by this Means has kept near as well as that pickled in Winter. Alſo in Imitation of this, I know a great Inn-keeper, who to make his Beef take Salt ſure and quick in hot Weather, dips it a little while in cold Water, then hangs it up to drain a few Minutes, and ſalts it down. But in caſe the Fly has a little taken it firſt, he lets it lie the longer in Water before he hangs it up; and after it is wetted, the Fly won't ſo eaſily meddle with it.

Of Tubs or Pots to keep pickled Pork in. — Theſe Repoſitories are of ſuch Conſequence in the Preſervation of pickled Pork, that they juſtly deſerve to be writ

writ on in a publick Manner; becauſe without theſe are ſound and ſweet, all our Labour is loſt. Therefore I ſhall begin with the powdering Tub, which is always made with Heart of Oak, and generally done by Sett-Work, as the Coopers call it, and not Rhine-Work; for by that Method the Groove is wider and the bottom thicker to retain the Brine. Yet has it been too often found, that ſeveral of theſe prove Deficient, and deceive the Owners, by either leaking or owzing out the Pickle according as the Oak is more or leſs porous, and the Work tight, on which Account our *Engliſh* exceed the *Norway*, eſpecially if the Trees grew on a Clay Soil and fell'd at a right Age. However, as the very beſt Security of all others againſt this too common a Misfortune, it is of late practiſed to line ſuch a Tub with mill'd and not with Sheet Lead, which a clever Workman will exquiſitely perform to a great Smoothneſs. This puts me in Mind of an Accident that happened in the Houſe of a Grandee relating to the Pork OEconomy, where a New Pickling Tub was brought by the Cooper, with an, I'll warrant you it will never leak out any Brine. Accordingly they ſalted down a Quantity of Pork in it, and ſeeing about ten Days after the Top dry, they found it had leaked; for in about 21 Days time, the Salt commonly, (or at leaſt good part of it) turns to Brine: Upon this they directly ſent for a Plumber to lead the Tub, and ſince it holds to the Purpoſe. Next to this is the Earthen Pot or Jarr. The firſt is ſold in moſt of the Crockery-Shops at about two Shillings for the Largeſt, and will hold a Porker of twenty Stone, and are a good Invention next to the Sweet-Oil Jarr, that a Gentleman near me uſes altogether for this Purpoſe, as being the largeſt Earthen Veſſel made, and may be bought at *London* for five Shillings and Six-pence each. The Pieces indeed muſt be cut ſmall, that they may be put into

its narrow Mouth, and as a Precaution of greater Conſequence, I muſt obſerve to you, that a nice OEconomiſt in this Affair will never ſcald theſe Pots or Jarrs, nor ſo much as put hot Water into them; becauſe without they are extraordinary well glazed, it will cauſe them to leak or ouze out the Brine, and ſometimes crack them, and therefore uſes only cold Water to clean them. Obſerve alſo to take out your Pieces of Pork as they are wanted with a Fork, and not with your Finger alone, that the Liquor may be kept pure, and the reſt not diſplaced; and then do nothing more, unleſs you now and then ſprinkle a little Salt on the Top. The Fat of this pickled or ſalted Pork, is much improved by the Salt petre, that gives it a Cloſeneſs and reddiſh Colour, and will cauſe it to be ſo firm as to craſh between the Teeth, but the lean Part is apt to harden rather too much by it. However, as it is generally moſt or all of it Fat, it is valuable for helping down Lean Beef, and making a dainty Diſh of the Broad Bean, eſpecially in Harveſt Time, when it does both Farmer and Servants a very great Service. There is alſo another Form uſed for keeping Pork in, and that is, let the Carpenter make a Veſſel, whoſe four Legs keep the Body of it four Inches from the Ground, about two Foot ſquare, and two Foot deep; this may likewiſe be leaded with the mill'd Sort, and kept under a cloſe Wooden Cover, that will hold two Porkers of twenty Stone each, and is now coming much in Faſhion, for its Cheapneſs, and for its being more convenient than the Round Tub or Earthen Veſſels, that are both liable to be damaged in a few Years by the corroding Salts, that are apt to penetrate through the Wood, and eat away the glazy Part of the Pots ſo as to make it ſhoal off in Bits. The Reaſon, why I write of pickling Pork in this Month, you will ſee in my next.

RYE.

THE Rye ſowed in *Auguſt* for feeding Sheep with in the Spring, now comes to the Farmer's Aſſiſtance, and as a Succedaneum to the Turnep, laſts all this Month. It's a very great Improvement of the Land, by enriching it with the feeding of Couples, and afterwards by the Fold, which is almoſt double Dreſſang, conſidering the Roots and Stalks of the Rye that ſire here plow'd in and rotted; beſides the great Benefit it gives the Farmer of fatting his Lambs, and feedſing his Ews, when no other Green Ware is to be had, and thereby fits them for an early Market, which is often two Shillings in ten Difference between that and a late one. This is one of the Winter and Spring Crops that makes no Breach of Covenants in a Tenant's Leaſe, becauſe none of it is carried out of the Field, but only ſerves to dreſs the Land, and then a Crop of Turneps, or a Fallow may be after.

WELD.

IN this Month ſow Weld Seed among Barley, or Oats in Gravels or Sands; it is hardy, and will grow if harrowed in on one Plowing; and when the Corn is off, if there are any rampant Weeds pull them up, or at furtheſt, the next Spring; for Weld requires two Summer's Growth, and will not be ripe till *July*, that then is to be pulled and tied up in ſmall Parcels to dry and houſe; but if it happens to be very wettiſh, it will Damage it for the Dyers Uſe, to whom this is of ſo great Service for dying a yellow Colour, that it has made three Pounds an Acre for the fallow Summer, and is of ſo hardy an Nature, as to grow on poor dry warm Land, without any Manure; and even in ſome Ground that won't carry Corn. It may alſo be ſowed alone, or with other Seeds. It has been ſown in *Kent*, &c. ſome Years paſt; but never attempted in our Parts till this Month: About ſix Pounds ſows an Acre

— if

— if its a Tilth which beſt ſuits it. The Roots and Stalks are only for the Dyers, and the Seed for the Seed-ſhop.

HORSES.

THIS Month being about the middle of the Spring Quarter, the Vegetable Kingdom now appears Green and Flouriſhing, the Days at an encouraging Length, and the Air and Roads very inviting into the Country, which gives the Horſe-man in particular an Opportunity to enjoy himſelf in rural Proſpects, by buying the moſt uſeful Beaſt in the World at the Fairs and Markets, that in this Month are numerous, free of the great Charge of a long Winter's Keeping. I ſhall therefore here give a few uſeful Hints, to prevent in ſome Meaſure the Impoſition of Jockeys, which I ſhall expoſe in theſe Works, as they occur to my Knowledge; and all little enough on the Buyer's Side, ſince it's become a Maxim. ——— A Man muſt firſt loſe a Hundred Pounds in Dealing in them, before he is Maſter of a true Judgment in Horſe-Fleſh. —

A Jockey Bit. — Who being young in his Buſineſs, was ask'd by a Couple of *Londoners*, who had juſt arrived at *Hempſtead* Fair in a Chaiſe, whether he would ſwop with them: He ſaid, Yes; but what is the Reaſon you part with the Mare? Oh, ſays one of them, becauſe ſhe is apt to piſs in my Wife's Face; and therefore ſhe does not like her. On this the Bargain was made, and my Jockey taken in; for ſhe proved to have a Quarter taken out of two Feet, two Spavins lately cured, and ſo blind, as to run againſt a Wall. As ſoon as this was diſcovered the preſent Owner put ſome Ribbons on her Neck and Tail, rid her about the Fair directly, and accidentally tempted the very Man that had kept her in a Livery Stable at *London* to buy her at ſeven Guineas, as not knowing her to be the ſame Mare, till he was inform'd of it by the firſt Sellers, who

who told him they had but juſt parted with her; for that ſhe was not worth one Shilling.

A Man bit with his own Horſe. — Not far off me, lived a Perſon who was in Company with another that was ſo crafty as to out-wit a Man at *Beaconſfield Fair* in this Manner, *viz.* As I remember he got ten Shillings to boot and another Horſe for his, and the new Horſe having one white Foot, and a Ball Face, he rubs the firſt all over with Lamp-black mix'd with Oil ſo well, as it could not eaſily be perceived; and the laſt he blacked to a Star and a Snip. On this the Man he had firſt dealt withal, calls to him, and ſays, What Horſe have you got now? A very good one, ſays the other: On my Word, ſays he, had he one white Foot, and Ball Face, I ſhould have taken him for my old Horſe. However, in this Diſguiſe he ſwops him for fifteen Shillings to boot, and the other knew nothing of the Bite, till it was too late; ſo that the Arch Jockey had his own Horſe again, and twenty-five Shillings clear.

Biſhopping a Horſe. — A *Smithfield* Term for a Counter Mark, or making a Horſe ſeem young, by the Hollow of his Corner Teeth, performed after the Horſe is Thrown, and lies ſettered on the Ground, by either a hot Iron and Raſp, or an engraving Iron. If by the latter, look if you can perceive any Scratches on the out-ſide of the Hollows, that the Graver leaves Behind; and if there are any, conclude on the Impoſition. If by the former, the burning will cauſe a Yellowneſs about the Hollow, and then the Caſe is the ſame. But they have rather a more ingenious Way than either of theſe: By drilling a Hole in the Tooth with the Bow. Two Country Dealers riding to a Fair, and ſeeing a Woman before them on a clever Grey Horſe, loaded with Stockings: Says one to the other in a preſumptuous Manner, — That ſhall be my Horſe, — Accordingly coming up to the Woman, ask'd if ſhe would

would ſell him: She reply'd, Yes: How much Money? She ſaid, ſix Guineas: I'll give it you, ſays our Dealer; and finding him to be an old Horſe, he made a Hole in two, and filed or raſped down ſome of the reſt; ſo that he quickly ſold him for about as much more to a Jockey that got near thirty Pounds for him to ſerve the Uſe of a Trumpeter.

Ring-Bone. — This is a Malady that comes a little above the Hoof, and when old, is of a hard Subſtance, lying croſs-ways, and binds ſo hard, as to cripple the Horſe: To cure it, they cut it in two or three Places, and apply a Plaiſter of Vitriol and Lime, which kills it: However when it's young, it is not eaſily perceived, tho' it makes the Horſe a little Lame. Then to make him paſs in a Fair, they'll put half a Marble under his contrary Shoe, to ballance the maimed Foot; and ſo they will in ſeveral other Caſes of Lameneſs, put a ſmall Stone under the other Shoe; and if the Buyer takes Notice, then they'll preſently ſearch the Foot and pull out the Stone, which they would make you believe was the accidental and ſole Cauſe.

Broken-Winded Horſe. — A Dealer to get off a broken-winded Horſe, gave him a Doſe of Milk and Brimſtone-Flour; which ſet him ſo faſt (as they call it) that he defied another to diſcover the Bite that Day, unleſs they watered the Horſe; then had him to *Aliſbury-Fair*, where his Boy had not rid him long before he took in a Chap for ſeven Pounds. The Maſter all the while keept off till the Buyer and the Boy were ſeated together in a publick Houſe; and then paſſing by, ſays to him, What do you do here, Sirrah, to Day; he anſwered, my Maſter ſent me to ſell this Horſe: Make haſte then, (ſays our Conniver) and I will carry you Home behind me. It was not long before the Buyer mounted, and watered at the end of the Town, and then he

he found he had bought a Piper: However on riding back he ſees our Dealer, and deſired him to accept of a Pint of Wine; on which he tells him he never was cleaner taken in through the whole Courſe of his Life; and therefore would give him a handſome Repentance to take the Horſe again. Accordingly allowing three Pounds, he received only four back. When this Affair was finiſhed, the former Doſe was repeated, and the Boy remounted; who was not long before he ſold him for ſeven Pounds again to the ſame Man's Son. The Father preſently after ſeeing him with the Horſe, ask'd him how he came by him; the Son tells him what he gave; and the Father replied, I juſt now bought him, and ſold him for three Pounds leſs than he coſt me.

Grey-Hairs. —— Another of the Fraternity having an ancient Horſe whoſe Grey-Hairs about his Head, ſhewed his Age, called at a Shoe-makers, and got ſome Lamp black and Oil; with which he rubbed it over, and ſold him at *Amerſham-Fair* for four Pounds, tho' it coſt him but fourteen Shillings. —

Eye Counterfeited. — In an old Horſe, or as ſome will have it, if got by an old Stallion: The Eye will be under a large Hollow, that conſequently is an Eye-ſore in a Fair. To remedy which, they take a Needle and prick the Lid with ſeveral Holes, and then clap their Lips to it, and blow it up; by which it will appear for ſome time a natural full Eye.

A Spavin Bite. — Some Years ago, I truſted to the Judgment of two Men, who were with me at *Smithfield*, to buy a Horſe, and as it happened a Mare fell to my Lot of five Years old, that ſeemed perfectly ſound; but by the Time I had rid 15 Miles, ſhe almoſt loſt a hind Leg; nor could the Farrier, on Search, find any Damage. On this, I rid for-

ward about five Miles, and then ſhe went ſound. The Reaſon of which, I could never get diſcovered, till ſome time after; when a Friend perceived it to be a young Spavin, that after each Journey would confine her in the Stable a Week, two, or three together in a dying Condition, before I could ride her again; which obliged me to ſell her for ſome Loſs at the ſame Market, This very Caſe has ſeveral times reminded me of a *Smithfield* Story I heard, of a grey Horſe that proved a ſort of Rent to the Jockey, who commonly ſold and bought him once a Month; for before the Rider had got twenty Miles, he could only go on three Legs, and then for *Smithfield* again, as ſoon as Reſt had recovered him.

Broken Winded Mare. — A Gentleman having a large Coach Mare Broken-winded, offered her to a Country Dealer for four Pounds; but he not accepting of it, the Gentleman told him he would give him a Guinea to ſell him at the next Fair for what he could get. Accordingly he did, and ſold her to a *Londoner* for ſeven Pounds, by giving her the Morning he went half a Pint of Sallet Oil. Upon this, our Dealer preſently ſet out from the Fair, and placed himſelf at the Window of a Houſe joining to a River at the end of the Town, through which the Mare, with other Horſes, were to paſs, in order to do himſelf the Pleaſure of beholding the Confuſion the Purchaſer would be in, when he eſpied his new Pair of Bellows; and it happened to his Expectation; for on the Mare's drinking, they plaid with a Witneſs. And now I am on this Subject, I ſhall here ſet down ſome ſerviceable Ingredients for helping Broken-winded Horſes. — Give him half a Pint of Lintſeed at Night among his Oats, and as much next Morning, and he'll travel much the better for it. — Others will give him as much Boar's Dung dried and powdered as will lie on half a Crown, now and then in Milk, and he will

will work next Day like a ſound Horſe. —— Others will cut the Herb Higtaper very ſmall, and give a handfull of it among his Oats once or twice a Week, and it will be of excellent Service. — Theſe three laſt may be uſed honeſtly to profit; but the next was put in Practice by a *London* Bite, who being at *Barkhamſtead* with a Broken-winded Horſe, was giving him at an Inn an Antidote to prevent a Diſcovery; but meeting with Difficulty by the Unrulineſs of the Horſe, called to a Paſſenger and deſired his Aſſiſtance: By which Opportunity the Man ſee him pour out of a Horn, a pint of Ale with a Pound of Shot in it, telling him at the ſame time, that the Doſe defied Water; and if he did not ſell him there, would laſt till *Wedneſday* next, which was two Days after, when he intended to be at *Dunſtable* Fair.

Age of a Horſe. —— The before-mentioned Horſe, whoſe Face was coloured, tho' an old one, yet had an even Mouth; and ſome are naturaly furniſhed not only with a level Set of Teeth, but alſo with a ſort of Specks in them, imitating true Marks that in this Caſe are called Shell-Tooth'd; yet with this Difference always, that they are never hollow as young ones be. So likewiſe, when they over-hang, bear forward, and don't meet, are of a ruſty, yellowiſh Colour and long; then regard him as an old Horſe. But when a Horſe's Age is to be known by his Teeth, at three Years old, he has two broad Teeth in the middle above and below. At four he has four broad Teeth above and below. At five he has ſix. At ſix he is full Mouth'd, and his Corner Teeth hollow. At ſeven the Hollow is almoſt gone, and afterwards there remains only gueſſing. A Mare has thirty-ſixth in all; but a Horſe has forty. Obſerve alſo, that when you buy a Horſe, whoſe Marks are out of his Mouth, you run a Riſque in the Failure of his Grinders. A Farmer near me had

one that was turn'd on twenty Years, when he grew Poor, by not being able to eat Beans and Bran that were his daily Food; but the Owner perceiving the Cauſe in time, gave him directly Oats and Chaff, which he managed pretty well, for his Teeth were even; ſo that he almoſt fatted him, and then he ſold him for four Pounds at *Alisbury-Fair*. Another who liv'd about a Mile from him had one that failed after this Manner at twelve Years old, that was diſcover'd by his chewing and letting out the Meat again into the Manger; and being brought very low by it, he gave his Man Orders to ſell him at the next Fair, for what he could get: Others will do the the ſame at Graſs, by biting and mumbling till it comes out of their Mouths again in frothy Parcels, of which I have ſeen many in one Field. But before I conclude this Article, I ſhall give you this uſeful Hint: That when you are buying a Horſe, whoſe Age you know not, take hold of his Tongue, and pull it out on one Side; then thruſt your Finger among his Grinders; and if you feel them all ſmooth, he will certainly fail in eating hard dry Meat; but if the Out-ſides of the Grinders are ſharp, and ſtand up above the middle of the Tooth, then he may be ventured on; for a Horſe that is ſmooth in theſe Parts, is only fit for thoſe that can feed him with Grains or other wet Meat, and then he may laſt three or four Years longer.

A Late Bite. —— It was but on *Monday* the 12th of *May*, 1735. that a neighbouring Farmer bought a three Years old Horſe at five Pounds ten Shillings at *Dunſtable-Fair*, and when he had got to *Gaddeſden*, he went to a Smith's-Shop to put two Hind Shoes on (for in the Vale Country where the Horſe came from, they ſeldom ſhoe all round) and being there, the Horſe fell a rubbing his Head, and off fell an artificial Star, made by putting white Hairs on a Lay of Pitch. This therefore is to advertiſe

thoſe

thoſe Jockeys and Dealers, Arch-Maſters of Lying and Swearing off a Horſe; who think it no Wrong to do no Right in a Market or Fair, that they may expect to hear further from me hereafter as more of their Impoſitions on the Deluded, occur to my Knowledge.

The beſt general Medicine for a Horſe. — Is as followeth, *viz.* At *Taddington-Fair* in *Bedfordſhire*, I bought a Horſe that ſeem'd to have on him the Effects of an old Surfeit; but relying on the famous Remedy I am now writing of, I ventured on him, and gave repeated Doſes of *Croçus Metallorum*, or as it is called in common—*Liver of Antimony*, and it ſoon made it vaniſh. Now if you will give two Ounces of this ſame reddiſh Powder once a Day to a Horſe for a Month together, among Oats, firſt ſprinkled to make it ſtick, or with moiſt Bran it will relieve his Appetite, deſtroy Worms, helps the Cure of Wounds, or Farcin, or Mange, ſweetens the Blood againſt all Obſtructions, opens the Paſſages, improves tired and lean Horſes to a great Degree, and is a Sovereign Medicine in Coughs, and Shortneſs of Breath. By which it prevents the Staggers, Yellows, Pole-Evil, Cankers, and all other Diſtempers proceeding from the Blood; for this neither purges nor makes a Horſe ſick, but the more you work him the better it is. To prove which, let the Horſe you give it to be curried with one particlar Comb, and you'll find it ſtink, when another ſhall not, by Reaſon it throws out all the foul Humours of the Body through the Pores of the Skin by Perſpiration in a Scurf. And how valuable ſuch a Catholicon will be to Farmers and others, I will leave them to judge on Tryal. In my humble Opinion, ſome had better give ten Pounds than be without the Knowledge of this Medicine, where a Number of Horſes are kept, and are frequently expoſed to Heats and Colds by Carts and Waggons, and other Car-

Carriages. This Noble Medicine was firſt ordered by Monſieur *Sollyſell.* But, for my Part, I give a Horſe but one Ounce at a Time, that conſtantly works at Plough and Cart, and have found it anſwer my Intention, and I believe you may too, if you continue it a Month together. But take care they do not go into Ponds or Waters all the time they take it.

Oak *Bark.*

THIS Month is the principal Seaſon for felling Oaks, becauſe the ſhowery Weather, and warm Spring generally ſo rarifie the Sap, as to cauſe its Circulation, and make the Bark eaſily part from the Body of the Tree, for that neceſſary Work of Tanning. But by the way, tho' it's of very great Service to the Tanner, yet is the Timber ſo fell'd, of leſs Value for Building, *&c.* for that, contrary to Beech, Experience has proved, that the Sap being now in its full Thinneſs; what remains of it in the Tree after felling, ſerves to rot it apace; and therefore it's a Maxim with ſome, that the Sap of a Winter-fell'd Oak, is almoſt as good as a ſorry hearted one fell'd in Summer. Some therefore, as I underſtand, have attempted to improve on this, and fell'd the Oak in *January* or *February*, by making a good Fire about the Tree, and pouring ſcalding Water all over it; thus the Bark is made to ſlip before the Peeling Iron. But I am of Opinion, the Trouble on this Account is too diſcouraging to make the Practice univerſal. Before it's fell'd in *April*, the Workman debarks it about four or five Foot up from the Root, as well to ſave the Bark at the Bottom, where it is to be chopp'd or ſawed off, as to come at it with more Freedom for that Operation; and when it is down they proceed with their Peeling Irons, taking off the Bark from the Body and Boughs; and then by a long Pole that lies about a Foot high from the Ground on ſmall forked Sticks, they

they put three Rows of Bark on each ſide of it in a leaning Poſture three Foot high, wide at Bottom, and narrow at Top, on which they lay Bark like Pan-tiles, to keep the Rains off till all is dry'd, that ſometimes will be in about three Weeks. But if a great deal of Rain ſucceeds, it's apt to ſpoil the Bark, by waſhing out the Sap, which is the beſt Part of the Tann, and then it's often refuſed. It's Prices are various, ſometimes 6d. ſometimes 1s. and ſometimes 18d. *per* Yard, as it ſtands Long-ways in the Field. The beſt Sort is that which is thickeſt rinded from large Trees. It was the Caſe of a Carpenter that bought a hundred Pound's Worth of Oak of one of my Neighbours, to give 6d. *per* Yard, (the common Rate) to the Workmen for peeling it; but when the Tanner came to view it, he would not give but 5d. *per* Yard. This made the Owner reſolve to ſtand the Chance of a better Market, and accordingly he kept it in a Barn another Year, and then ſold it for 10d. *per* Yard. Some few have put in Practice the peeling of Oak ſtanding, in order to let the Sap or Out-ſide harden by the Air a Year or two before they be cut down, and it has anſwered their Purpoſe; but the Charge and Tediouſneſs of this Invention, does not take with many others. The late Project of ſupplying the Uſe of Bark by Tormentil Roots in *Ireland*, I ſuppoſe does not anſwer. About the 12th of this Month, ſeveral of our famous Workmen were ſent for to fell and debark Oaks in a Park near *Buntingford* in this County, that lies near thirty Miles diſtant from *Gaddeſden* for the Uſe of the Docks, at 6d. a Yard, which is a Penny more than we now give. And for the ſake of the Penny, theſe accurate Workmen goe once a Year commonly to diſtant Places and fell Trees into the ſame Price.

Days Men Vindicated. — By this time it will appear, how uſeful a skilful Plowman is, whom moſt keep

keep in their Houſes: But ſome again make uſe of a Day's Man to diſcharge this Work, and both Farmers, as well as Gentlemen that occupy their own Eſtates, ſeldom are without the Help of others, as well as theſe, that go home every Night to their Families, and to whom we give a Shilling a Day and ſmall Beer, or elſe two Pence in lieu of the ſame: Which leads me to take Notice of an Oppreſſion that I knew attempted by a Rich Gentletleman, who held his own Eſtate in his Hands, and employ'd, as I remember, three of theſe Sort throughout the Year, beſides his Domeſtick Servants. It happened that this Perſon came under a Reſolution to allow them no longer any Beer, or Money inſtead thereof: However theſe three Men (well become them) were no leſs reſolved to abandon his Work, if he would not continue the Cuſtom of the Country, that the leaſt Farmer punctually obſerv'd. This obliged the Squire to continue their Small-Beer. — Agreeable to the common Saying, Nothing is cheaper than poor Mens Labour; but to oppreſs the Hireling by Means of my Abundance, and his Neceſſity, would make me fear the Blow of Providence for the ſame in my Field, or otherways: Where Guardian Spirits, who are commiſſioned to take care of the various Seaſons, and ſuperintend the Tillage and Fruits of the Earth, are the beſt Friends to thoſe that truly act Meum and Tuum. — Tho' I am ſenſible that ſome make it an evaſive Plea to debar them of Beer on account of their loſing time at the Tap, or Swilling beyond Reaſon; but does this diſallow of a Recompence? No, Cuſtom carries and makes it a juſt due: Others ſay, that by employing a Days-Men conſtantly at a Shilling and no Small-Beer, is equivalent to a Farmer's both, that ſets them to work only now and then. To this I anſwer, How comes it to paſs then that all the great Farmers, who alſo employ many

all the Year, never refuſe them Beer or Money for it? On the contrary, a Breakfaſt is added, to my Knowledge, by ſeveral who are endowed with a Chriſtian Generoſity, and who know they were not made for themſelves only: In ſhort, it ſurpriſes me when I think how ſuch a Rich Man could diſpenſe with his Conſcience, on account of a long Score of Reſtitution, that conſequently muſt have ſtood out againſt him at the Time of his Death, if he had compaſſed his avaricious Ends, and ſo have brought himſelf into a moſt dangerous Riſque of ſharing the Fate of the rich Reprobate in the Goſpel, according to the Remark of a Learned Divine, who ſaid, — When we read the Hiſtory of the Rich Reprobate, and the predeſtinated poor Man, we find no other Reaſon of the Ruin of the one, than the delicious Life he led on Earth; nor any other Principle of the Happineſs of the other, than the miſerable Condition in which he liv'd while in the World.

I muſt alſo obſerve, the great Hardſhip I myſelf am under, being inform'd that my Books are reprinted at *Dublin*, and ſold even as far as *Glouceſter*, and the Northern Parts of *Britain*, where they ſell them cheaper than I can afford, by reaſon of the low Prices that Paper and Printing are at there: But it's to be hoped our Legiſlature will ſo far encourage uſeful Arts and Sciences, as to grant Relief.

SIR,

YOUR Books on HUSBANDRY are writ with ſo much Judgment, that as far as I can hear, they meet with a general Approbation where-ever they are read; and if there be not an extraordinary Demand for them, I dare ſay, it is becauſe they are not enough publickly advertiſed: We Farmers in *Suffolk* are ſo pleaſed with the Sample you have already given us, that ſeveral of us are determined to buy your twelve Monthly Books, which you deſign to publiſh,

liſh, if you'll be pleaſed to inſert in them a Method to kill Vermin, I mean Foxes, Badgers, and Pole-Cats; as nothing is more deſtructive and pernicious to the Farmer than theſe Creatures, ſo nothing would promote the Sale of your Books more than an Art to deſtroy them: I hope this Requeſt, as it is reaſonable and no Expence, (Poſt being paid), will not be taken amiſs, from *&c.*

THIS Letter I receiv'd on the 6th Day of *Auguſt* 1735. and own myſelf obliged to theſe Perſons whoever they be; and this is to inform them, that I ſhall readily endeavour to ſerve them, to the utmoſt of my Power, in what they deſire, being before hand in a Capacity to anſwer their Requeſt, having above two Years ſince made my Obſervations and Collections on theſe important Affairs; which I was not at a great Loſs to obtain, becauſe about a Mile off my Houſe, there are many Earths, that ſeldom are without Foxes or Badgers; and therefore I intend to give a plenary Account of this Matter in a proper Month. In the Interim I return my hearty Thanks to theſe Orthodox Judges of a Book of Husbandry for their kind Declaration, and could wiſh, for the ſake of the Publick Good, as well as my own private Intereſt, that more would be their own Friends like theſe worthy *Suffolk* Men, and then I ſhould the ſooner vend this Impreſſion of theſe Books: On which I intend directly to print my next Book for the Month of *May*, (which is now ready for the Preſs) wherein I ſhall in ſome Meaſure ſupply what has been wanting in this; and I doubt not but to give the World a Valuable Satisfaction in publiſhing thoſe many ſerviceable Ways of Management in Husbandry, that I have been, with great Pains and Charge, making myſelf acquainted with for near theſe twenty Years paſt; moſt of which were never by me, nor any other yet made known

in

in Print. — If any Perſon will be ſo good, as to contribute his Aſſiſtance towards his Country's Welfare, by ſending me an Account of any thing relating to the Improvement of this moſt uſeful Science, I ſhall be very much obliged to them.

BUT I muſt here ſtop, and forbear publiſhing the Copy of a Letter I received from an ingenious Gentleman of the North, and my Anſwer to the ſame, concerning the new Improvements of Chalk, which I muſt defer, for the Reaſon aforeſaid, as well as many other Matters that I hope will do the World conſiderable Service. And now I ſhall conclude this Month with ſome Paſſages out of Dr. *Denne*'s excellent Sermon on Vegetation. — It is from God, that the Trees receive annually their peculiar Liveries, and bear their proper Fruits; that Flowers are dreſt, each Family, in the ſame Colours, or diverſify their Faſhions after a certain Manner proper to their Kind, and breathe the ſame Eſſences; and that both theſe, and all other Kinds, obſerve their Seaſons, and ſeem to have their ſeveral Profeſſions and Trades appointed them; by which they produce ſuch Food and Manufactures, as may ſupply the Wants of Animals. And indeed to find out and admire the Wiſdom of theſe Laws, is the whole Buſineſs of a Philoſopher, who really becomes a Fool, however Wiſe he may be in his own Imagination, when he preſumes to exclude God and his Providence out of his Schemes, and to account without them from Matter and Motion only, for the ſmalleſt Production in the Vegetable World; for how the Seed ſprings and grows up, we know not, unleſs by reckoning it into the perpetual Influence of him who governs all Things. — Vegetables can only afford Materials of Praiſe to his reaſonable Offſpring, who are made capable, by Faculties truly Divine, of diſcovering, from an infinite Variety of

the moſt ſurpriſing Effects, Wiſdom unfathomable, and Power inexhauſtible in the Godhead, under the Conduct of Goodneſs, as boundleſs as either of them. Alſo of turning whatever we ſee or think of, into a Subject of Adoration and Thankſgiving.

FOR Men therefore who have Leiſure and Abiliſity of every Kind, not to ſearch far and wide into the Works of his Creation and Providence, is, as it were, to defraud or rob him of ſome Part of his Glory; beſides, it is an Employment that becomes the Nobleſt, and is ſufficient for the Wiſeſt of Men; nay, their Wiſdom can conſiſt in nothing better than finding out God unto Perfection. And that he might do ſo, even *Solomon* enquired into the Diverſities and Virtues of Plants from the Cedar in *Lebanon*, even to the Hyſſop, that ſpringeth out of the Wall. For the Vegetable World, tho' one of the leaſt conſiderable Parts of the Creation itſelf, is yet an elegant Feaſt to the Soul, as well as to the Senſes of Mankind; and when Art ſtill diſcovers greater Wonders of Power and Wiſdom than the naked Eye, and when Reaſon and Philoſophy ſhew us the ſeveral Ends of Providence, and convince us, that it was made by infinite Goodneſs for our Uſe, Ornament, and Delight: It ſeems monſtrous, if not impoſſible, that any of us, however prejudiced or infatuated, ſhould not feel within ourſelves thoſe natural Overflowings of Admiration and Pleaſure of Love and Gratitude, which become the Relation we ſtand in to our own Creator and Preſerver, to the Author of every good Gift and Bleſſing in the World.

FINIS.

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